



Cancer Connections Veteran Edition

Louis Stokes Cleveland
Veterans Affairs Medical
Center

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Distress Screening for Cancer Patients

The Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center (LSCVAMC) has begun to ask veterans diagnosed with cancer to fill out a distress screen at certain medical visits. Patients undergoing treatment for cancer likely have specific concerns. The distress screen helps the cancer care team understand the distress patients are feeling and how it effects their care.

The distress screen is like a pain scale. It helps to measure distress. The distress screen has a scale on which you circle your level of distress. It also asks about the specific areas that are of concern. A sample of the distress screen is located below.

After completing the distress screen, the veteran may meet with a provider for further evaluation and may be referred for supportive services at the LSCVAMC or in the community. Supportive services can include social workers, behavioral health professionals, chaplains, support groups, and other experts.

If you should have any questions about distress screening for cancer patients, contact Deborah Fox at (216) 791-3800 ext. 6545 or e-mail deborah.fox2@va.gov.



Welcome to the first edition of the Cancer Connections Newsletter *Veteran Edition*, a publication of the Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC Cancer Committee. This newsletter is designed to provide information to veterans on cancer related activities conducted at our medical center.

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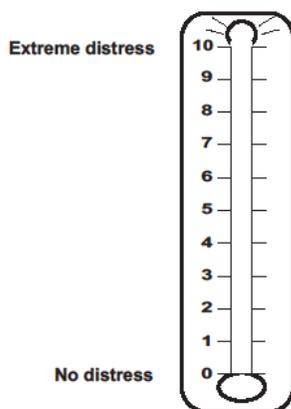


National
Comprehensive
Cancer
Network
**NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2013
Distress Management**

[NCCN Guidelines Index](#)
[Distress Management TOC](#)
[Discussion](#)

SCREENING TOOLS FOR MEASURING DISTRESS

Instructions: First please circle the number (0-10) that best describes how much distress you have been experiencing in the past week including today.



Second, please indicate if any of the following has been a problem for you in the past week including today. Be sure to check YES or NO for each.

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| YES | NO | Practical Problems | YES | NO | Physical Problems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Child care | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Appearance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bathing/dressing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Insurance/financial | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Breathing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Changes in urination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Work/school | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Constipation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Treatment decisions | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Diarrhea |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Eating |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fatigue |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Feeling Swollen |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fevers |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Getting around |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Indigestion |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Memory/concentration |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mouth sores |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Nausea |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Nose dry/congested |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pain |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sexual |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Skin dry/itchy |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sleep |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Substance abuse |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tingling in hands/feet |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
- Family Problems**
- Dealing with children
 - Dealing with partner
 - Ability to have children
 - Family health issues
- Emotional Problems**
- Depression
 - Fears
 - Nervousness
 - Sadness
 - Worry
 - Loss of interest in usual activities
- Spiritual/religious concerns**
- Other Problems: _____



If you have any questions about the LSCVAMC Cancer Committee or cancer care at our medical center please contact:

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Administrator
(216) 791-3800 ext. 6545
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Leukemia and Lymphoma Walk

The Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center Oncology Team participated in their second Light the Night Walk on Sunday, October 12, 2014 at the Wade Oval in University Circle in Cleveland, Ohio. The team raised about \$1100 for the event. Veterans with blood cancers were invited to join the team in this community event. The Light the Night Walk is a fundraising campaign of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. This walk brings together families and communities to honor blood cancer survivors, as well as those lost to the diseases. This event shines a light on the importance of finding cures and providing access to treatments for blood cancer patients. Light the Night is a community celebration of music, entertainment and fellowship among friends, family and co-workers gathering to celebrate fundraising success and demonstrate their support in the fight against blood cancers.



The 9th Annual Community

Cancer Awareness Fair

will be held on

Thursday, June 18th, 2015

from

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

in the Rec Hall at the Wade Park
Campus

ALL ARE WELCOME

Colorectal Cancer - Outcomes Reporting

The Cancer Committee at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center (LSCVAMC) makes sure that patients treated at the medical center receive care according to nationally recognized measures. As a Commission on Cancer (CoC) accredited cancer program, the LSCVAMC uses the CoC quality reporting tools to assess and monitor performance rates for select cancer treatments. Below is a summary of the LSCVAMC performance rate for the colorectal cancer quality measures.

Measure 1: Adjuvant chemotherapy (chemotherapy given after colon cancer surgery) is considered or administered within four months of diagnosis for patients under age 80 with Stage III colon cancer. The LSCVAMC's performance rate was 100% from 2010 to 2011 for this CoC standard of care quality measure. The expected performance rate is 90%.

100%

Measure 2: At least 12 regional lymph nodes are removed and pathologically examined for resected colon cancer. The LSCVAMC's performance rate was 85.7% from 2010 to 2011 for this CoC standard of quality measure. The expected performance rate is 80%. Although we exceeded the expected performance rate, the Cancer Committee's goal is to achieve 100% for this measure. The Cancer Committee reviews all colon cancer resections to make sure that at least 12 lymph nodes are examined.

85.7%

Measure 3: Radiation therapy is considered or administered within six months of diagnosis for patients under the age of 80 with Stage III receiving surgical resection for rectal cancer. The LSCVAMC's performance rate was 100% from 2010 to 2011 for this CoC standard of quality measure. There is no expected performance rate for this measure.

100%