



# **Patient-Centered Cancer Treatment Planning: Improving the Quality of Oncology Care: Workshop Summary**

*Margie Patlak, Erin Balogh, Sharyl Nass, National Cancer Policy Forum, Board on Health Care Services,  
Institute of Medicine*

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Each year approximately 1.5 million people are diagnosed with cancer in the United States, most of whom inevitably face difficult decisions concerning their course of care. Recognizing challenges associated with cancer treatment, the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (NCCS) and the National Cancer Policy Forum (NCPF) of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) hosted a public workshop in Washington, DC on February 28 and March 1, 2011, entitled Patient-Centered Cancer Treatment Planning: Improving the Quality of Oncology Care.

This workshop summary includes an overview of patient-centered care and cancer treatment planning, as well as subject areas on shared decision making, communication in the cancer care setting, and patient experiences with cancer treatment. Best practices, models of treatment planning, and tools to facilitate their use are also discussed, along with policy changes that may promote patient-centeredness by enhancing patient's understanding of and commitment to the goals of treatment through shared decision-making process with their healthcare team from the moment of diagnosis onward. Moreover, *Patient-Centered Cancer Treatment Planning* emphasizes treatment planning for patients with cancer at the time diagnosis.

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