

Driving Impact: Professional Standards in Oncology Navigation

The [Oncology Navigation Standards of Professional Practice](#) define the scope and role of professional oncology navigators.

The standards integrate evidence-based best practices as a foundation to guide and enhance the quality of navigation for people with cancer, regardless of practice setting.

Who are professional navigators?

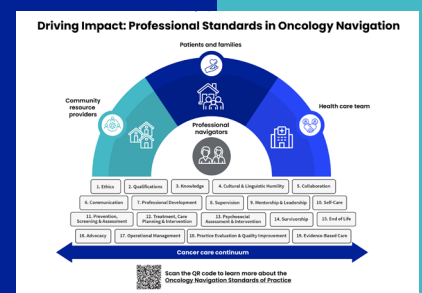
Professional navigators are trained individuals employed and paid by a health care-, advocacy-, or community-based organizations to provide oncology navigation. Oncology navigators provide assistance to patients, families, and caregivers to help overcome barriers and facilitate timely access to care throughout all phases of the cancer experience.

Positions that fall under the professional navigator category include:

 Patient Navigators	 Clinical Oncology Nurse Navigators	 Clinical Navigator Oncology Social Worker
Professional individuals whose focus is on connecting patients to resources, reducing logistical and systemic barriers, and serving as a consistent point of contact. They do not have or use clinical training.	Registered nurses with oncology-specific knowledge. Using the nursing process, they provide education and resources to help patients and families make informed decisions.	Professional social workers with a master's degree in social work, an appropriate clinical license, and oncology-specific knowledge. Using the social work process, they provide education and resources to help patients and families make informed decisions.

Resource Spotlight

View and download an infographic highlighting the role of the Oncology Navigation Standards of Professional Practice in professional navigation.



What role do navigators play?

Navigators guide patients and caregivers through the health care system, helping them overcome barriers to care, coordinating services, and providing referrals for the care and support they need.

[Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators](#)

When do navigators become involved?

Navigation services can include strategies to address cancer risk, prevention, and screening needs. For people with cancer, navigators help to facilitate their experience, including any care transitions, from the point of diagnosis through treatment and beyond. [Oncology Nursing Society](#)

Where do navigators practice?

Professional navigators practice in a variety of oncology care settings, including:



**Health care systems
and other oncology
practice settings**



**Advocacy
organizations**



Virtual care



**Community-based
organizations**

Why should the Oncology Navigation Standards of Professional Practice be important to you?

The [Oncology Navigation Standards of Professional Practice](#) include 19 practice standards that provide a proven and trusted evidence-based foundation for oncology navigation that advances equity across the cancer care continuum by delivering consistent, high-quality, individualized support designed to optimize patient outcomes.



Scan the QR code to learn more about the Oncology Navigation Standards of Professional Practice

The professional and patient organizations responsible for the creation of the Oncology Navigation Standards of Professional Practice include:

