

ISSUES OF CANCER CARE FOR THE UNDESERVED OF CONNECTICUT

Center for Hope

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TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS

- Early Diagnosis
- Equal Coverage for Treatment



UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

➤ UNDER AND UNINSURED

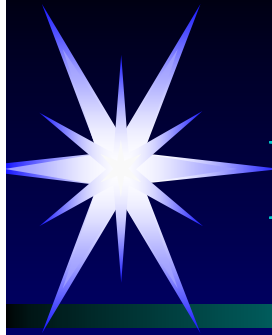
- Working Poor
- Illegal immigrants
- Legal immigrants without insurance
 - Self employed
 - In America under six months
- Others whose assets have been depleted by medical expenses



UNDESERVED POPULATIONS

➤ ELDERLY

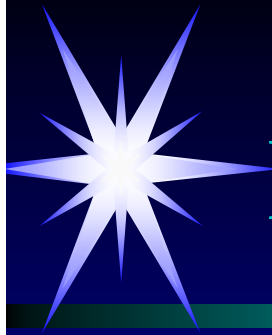
- Without Medigap insurance
- With managed Medicare
- Terminally ill in Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Over 80 years of age



KEY INSURANCE ISSUES

➤ MEDICAID

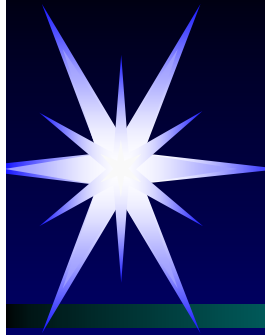
- Does not pay for reconstruction surgery
- Does not pay for alternative medicine
- Does not have hospice benefit
- No coverage for hospice residency



KEY INSURANCE ISSUES

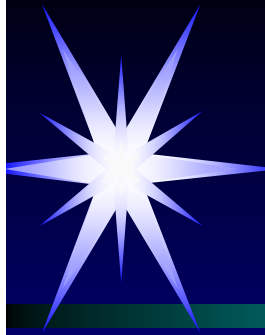
➤ MEDICARE

- Does not cover prescription medications
- Reimbursement to Skill Nursing Facilities too low to cover cancer treatments
- No coverage for hospice residency
- Limited coverage for alternative medicine



FINANCIAL ISSUES

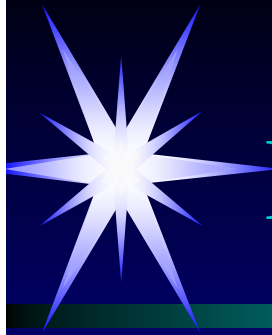
- Medications too expensive
- Managed care decreasing coverage, denying services, and limiting resource access
- Loss of income while undergoing treatment
- Hidden costs of having cancer
- Length of disease has increased - cancer has become a chronic illness



NEEDED CHANGES

➤ INSURANCE

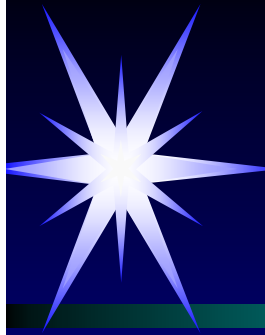
- Defeat proposed Medicare policy changes that would decrease reimbursement for out-patient oncology services
- Legislation requiring managed care to provide same cancer treatment benefits as Medicare
- Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement for hospice residences
- Medicare prescription coverage



NEEDED CHANGES

➤ INSURANCE CONTINUED

- Government provide emergency medical coverage for the working poor
- Increase Medicare hospice benefits to cover the cost of medications, counseling sessions, and clergy visits
- Legislation to decrease the cost of medications
- Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement for hospice visits to skilled nursing facilities



NEEDED CHANGES

➤ EDUCATIONAL

- Culturally sensitive educational programs
- More social workers in clinics and cancer centers to provide education and referrals to agencies
- Provide physician education that encourages sensitive communication on prognosis and timely referrals to social service and health care agencies