The Optum® Cancer Support Program (CSP) delivers clinical quality and economic value for clients and their members. CSP helps clients mitigate the costs associated with cancer treatment and increases the quality of care for the member. In addition, CSP integrates closely with providers to support adherence to evidence-based treatments and appropriate care.

**Personal cancer nurse**

The Optum cancer nurse provides one contact for members to help make informed decisions about their cancer care. Our specialized cancer nurses are supported by an entire team of cancer experts, while remaining the sole deliverer of cancer case management for the member.

**An integrative approach to close gaps in care**

Members engaged in CSP can realize improved quality of life through proactive, targeted interventions and support from their experienced cancer nurse. Our dedicated nurses work to help members remain productive while focusing on getting healthy and staying healthy.

Additionally, our cancer nurses:

- Help prevent and manage symptoms and side effects, leading to fewer inpatient admissions and emergency room visits
- Collaborate with treating physicians to fill gaps in knowledge, support and management of members
- Assist in managing pharmacy costs by reviewing medications and comparing them to evidence-based standards
- Provide support to help members make informed decisions about their treatment
- Educate members regarding hospice services and palliative care, as appropriate
- Help members navigate the health care system and refer them to specialists as needed
- Educate survivors of cancer on prevention of future cancers and encourage behaviors that preserve survivor health

**Cancer Centers of Excellence (COE) Network**

Optum identifies top-quality cancer centers across the country to participate in the Cancer Centers of Excellence Network. These centers provide high-quality, appropriate and cost-effective care and are reviewed annually to ensure they continue to meet the high standards for which they were originally selected.

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**Cancer Support Program participants save clients an average of $7,000 per participant per year for survivors and $12,000 per participant per year for those who do not survive their cancer.**

The Cancer Support Program can save an additional $29,000 per participant over participants managed in an existing case management program.

Additional cost savings are obtained from strong contracts with Cancer COE facilities, which can provide an average of 21-42% off billed rates and increased use of evidence-based treatment plans by providers.
Reported savings through the Optum Cancer Centers of Excellence have ranged from 21-42 percent, contributed equally from inpatient, outpatient and pharmacy services. In addition to the financial benefit, treatment at a Cancer COE facility can result in:

- More consistently accurate diagnoses
- Care that is planned, coordinated and provided by a multidisciplinary team of experts who specialize in the member’s specific kind of cancer

**Network qualification process**

The Cancer Centers of Excellence Network comprises many of the most highly regarded cancer centers in the country. Each center has met our qualification criteria based on eight critical features:

- Multidisciplinary approach to care
- Program depth and breadth
- Best-practices medicine
- Patient- and family-oriented programs and services
- Patient volumes
- Treatment planning and coordination
- High-quality clinical research
- Patient safety

**The financial cost of cancer**

Cancer care expenditures in 2010 totaled nearly $125 billion. That figure is expected to reach $156 billion in 2020.

**Sources:**

2. Optum internal analytics, 2015.