Equitable Access to Quality Cancer Care: The Emerging Access to Insurance Deficit

Darwin Kealey, Past Chair
Cancer Advocacy Coalition of Canada
February 22, 2012
About the CACC

- Incorporated as a non-profit in April 2000
- A Board comprised of unpaid volunteers

Our Vision for the Cancer System
An effective, comprehensive, evidence-based cancer system that offers Canadians the best chances for preventing and treating this disease, and addresses the emotional, physical and financial needs of patients and survivors.
Board of Directors

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Who we are, what we do

- Report Card
- Public Education
- Advocacy

Canada’s only independent evaluation of cancer system performance
Report Card 2010-2011

Major themes:
- Clinical trials
- Multidisciplinary care
- Prevention
- The experience of cancer patients
- Physician advocacy
Report Card 2011-2012

- Lung cancer
- Smoking
- Complementary Care
- HPV in men
- Patient-centred care
- Research
- Patient Stories
- Great innovative ideas from the Provinces
- Release date: March 2012
Advocacy Activities

- Public education – raising awareness of cancer system issues through the media, publications, speaking engagements
- Policy influence – meetings with health system and particularly cancer system decision-makers
- Submissions to government bodies, task forces, etc.,
- Public commentary – interviews throughout the year on emerging cancer issues

Everything depends on the depth of research and credibility of the solutions proposed
Unique Developments in Cancer Care

- Pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review (pCODR)
- Council of the Federation
- Biomarkers- efficient use of oncology drugs
Insurance Deficit

- Transition to oral drugs
- Regional dependence on private insurance
- Public unaware of growing vulnerability
- Potential for a national catastrophic drug program
- A summit of public and private insurers
- Urgent need for a public-private sector pooling mechanism
Change occurs when the pain of doing nothing finally exceeds the pain of doing something
Thank You

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