

TIPS & TRENDS

CANCER PLANNERS

If you or a loved one faces a cancer diagnosis, you likely already know how overwhelming the appointments, paperwork, and sheer volume of related information can be. Recognizing the need for an organizational tool that can help patients and caregivers stay on top of critical information about their care, several organizations have now created cancer planners. Here are two great options:

The *CANCER101* planner enables patients and caregivers to record details of their personal treatment and recovery and provides useful reference sources and a section devoted to advice from other survivors and caregivers. It is available both in print and online at more than 300 treatment centers across the country and for purchase online at cancer101.org.

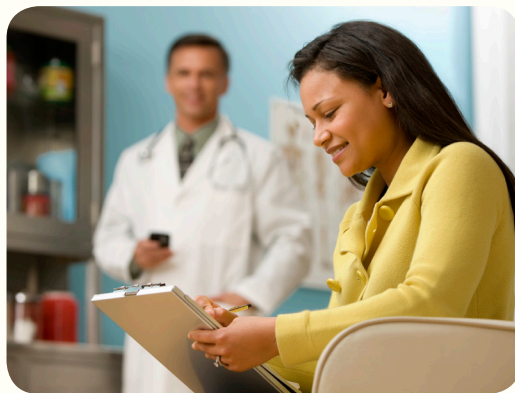
The Breast Cancer Journey Planner by Carrie S. Sanders, MA, is a reference source for patients and an organizational tool. The planner includes calendars and medication logs, lists of questions and hints, and other helpful tools, all in a three-ring binder sized to fit conveniently in a purse or small bag, so it's easy to carry along to appointments (theidealcancerorganizer.com).



CareEdge

Ask any patient or caregiver to list frustrations related to cancer treatment, and chances are they will mention the waiting game. Whether you're waiting for your appointment to begin, for a diagnosis to be confirmed, for a treatment plan to be created, or for results of a scan or test, the waiting is tough. Experts at Cancer Treatment Centers of America® (CTCA) know that it's difficult to wait, and they have developed a new diagnostic offering called CareEdgeSM that aims to cut wait time and empower patients.

CareEdge offers patients with colon, rectal, breast, prostate, or lung cancer the opportunity to receive a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation at any of the four CTCA regional cancer centers for a single, fully inclusive price and guarantees each cancer patient a complete evaluation and treatment plan in five days or less. If the plan is not delivered within five days, patients can choose to complete the process at CTCA at no additional cost, or they can complete their treatment plan elsewhere and their payer receives a complete refund of amounts paid to CTCA. For more information visit cancercenter.com.



JUST THE RIGHT THING



Finding just the right gift for someone undergoing cancer treatment can be tricky. Oftentimes traditional get-well gifts aren't appropriate—a patient's nutrition and food needs may be unusual, the scent of some flowers can be off-putting for those experiencing nausea, and balloons and other small items can get lost in the shuffle. Luckily, cancer-specific gift shops exist online and in cancer treatment centers, offering gifts that are designed with patients in mind. Here are a few online options that offer a wide variety of appropriate items:

- Cancer Shop USA (cancershopusa.com)
- Bee Well Wishes (beewellwishes.com)
- The Pampered Patient (thepamperedpatient.com)
- CareGifting (caregifting.com/cancer.html)