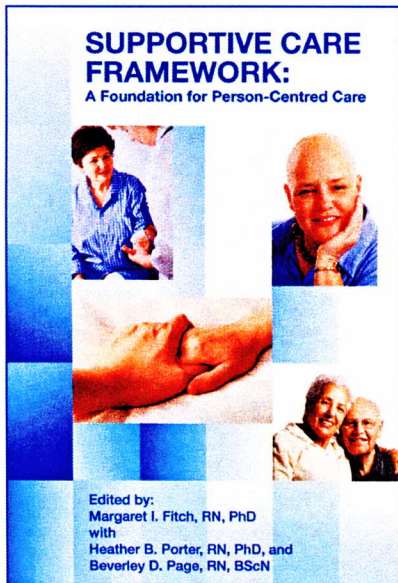


A New Publication



SUPPORTIVE CARE FRAMEWORK: A Foundation for Person-Centred Care

Edited by **Margaret I. Fitch**, RN PhD
with **Heather B. Porter**, RN PhD and **Beverley D. Page**, RN BScN

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The cancer journey spans from prevention through screening and early detection, treatment, rehabilitation, survivorship, palliative care and end of life care. The journey involves every aspect of the health system and the entire team: professionals, volunteers, family, and friends. Understanding the human experience of cancer, that the need for respect, information, coordination, continuity, spiritual care, emotional support, financial assistance, management of symptoms, collaboration and community supports are all essential elements that will impact positively on the person's experience through and beyond the diagnosis; or negatively if those elements are absent.

In 1994, Dr. Fitch first developed the Supportive Care Framework to formalize the elements beyond those of basic physical care that cancer professionals needed to integrate into their practice. The framework now serves the system in many ways, as a basis for policy and programmatic planning, for health professional education, to enable quality improvement and to provide a framework for research.

Providing supportive care during all phases of the cancer journey requires considerable personal, organizational, system and community resources and political will. Yet, it will most certainly be one of the most powerful ways to care for our patients, for those who survive and those who do not.

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