Employment & Cancer

Working during and after treatment can be tough on patients, but new resources, protections and an increased workplace understanding about cancer has improved patient outcomes. Of the more than 12 million cancer survivors in the U.S., one-third are under the age of 65, the traditional retirement age. With millions of people working during and after the cancer treatment, survivors are changing the face of the workforce.

**Why People Want to Work**

- 48% want to keep things as normal as possible
- 38% want to feel productive
- 28% want to keep their health benefits

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Cancer is classified as a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act. To learn more about your rights, go to [http://www.eeoc.gov/facts/cancer.html](http://www.eeoc.gov/facts/cancer.html).

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- To feel productive (38%)
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**Working During and After Cancer Treatment**

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**Survey Details**

A 2010 study published in the Journal of Cancer Survivorship found that of patients with newly diagnosed breast or prostate cancer, about 36% of women and 17% of men reported a physical disability 18 months after diagnosis.

**Past Individuals with a History of Cancer Can Ask for Reasonable Accommodations at Their Workplace, Including:**

1. Access to an accommodation treatment schedule
2. A job position that enables the person to work while standing for long hours
3. Access to a work environment which accommodates cognitive dysfunction
4. Additional time to complete tasks or projects due to cognitive dysfunction
5. Ability to work from home due to fatigue or a compromised immune system
6. A flexible working hours to accommodate treatment schedules
7. A job transfer to reduce pain and discomfort while standing for long hours
8. An ability to work from home due to fatigue or a compromised immune system
9. A job position that enables the person to work while standing for long hours
10. Additional time to complete tasks or projects due to cognitive dysfunction

**Survey Methods**

- Of those surveyed by Cancer & Careers, 60% reported they either did not take off work or only took off a few days after diagnosis.
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**Survey Results**

- Cancer survivors who received multidisciplinary interventions, which included physical, psychological and vocational components, were nearly twice as likely to overcome challenges and successfully return to work as those who received usual care.