



spotlight on health

Lung Cancer Treatment Decision-Making Tool Available

(NAPSA)—Patients with lung cancer are getting help with treatment decision-making. The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), in a partnership with the American Cancer Society, has produced *Lung Cancer Treatment Guidelines for Patients*.

“This collaboration provides access to patient versions of the same guidelines oncologists use to aid their decisions about appropriate treatment,” said William T. McGivney, Ph.D., chief executive officer of the NCCN. “Our goal is to inform and facilitate this critical decision-making process between patient and physician.”

These guidelines were produced by translating the NCCN’s “Clinical Practice Guidelines,” originally designed for oncologists, into reliable, specific, easy-to-understand materials for patients with lung cancer, their families and caregivers. Among the topics covered are: types of lung cancer, tests and exams, types of treatment, clinical trials information and a helpful glossary of lung cancer terms.

Patients are also provided with the same “decision trees” used by their doctors. These flowcharts represent the appropriate course of treatment for each stage of specific types of lung cancer. These charts are invaluable in determining the most effective course of treatment.

According to the American Cancer Society, there will be about 171,900 new cases of lung cancer in 2003. Smoking is the main risk factor for the disease. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer

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death in the United States.

“We want people with lung cancer to understand their treatment options,” said Robert C. Young, M.D., former national volunteer president of the American Cancer Society and president of Fox Chase Cancer Center, a founding member of the NCCN. “These materials will help patients take a more active role in their own health care and guide them through the treatment decision-making process.”

Lung Cancer Treatment Guidelines for Patients is part of an informational series to help patients and their families make more informed decisions regarding their treatment. Other guidelines cover supportive care topics such as nausea and vomiting; fever and neutropenia; cancer-related fatigue and anemia; and cancer pain. Other items in the series provide information on melanoma as well as cancer of the prostate, breast, ovaries, colon and rectum and bladder.

These materials, in English and Spanish, are available for free at www.nccn.org and by calling 1-888-909-NCCN. For more information about lung cancer, contact the American Cancer Society at www.cancer.org or 1-800-ACS-2345.