

Introduction:

Development of the Recommendations

The Prostate Cancer Control Plan for Michigan (Updated 2005) is an important component of the Michigan Cancer Consortium's (MCC's) Comprehensive Cancer Plan for 2005-2010. The recommendations contain what Michigan prostate cancer experts believe are the most important actions that can be undertaken to address prostate cancer issues in the state of Michigan. While many of these recommendations focus on provider, public, and patient education and on morbidity rather than directly addressing mortality, the ultimate goal is always to reduce mortality as well as morbidity; by implementing this plan, mortality will be reduced, albeit indirectly.

In 1996 the MCC and MDCH asked its panel of experts that made up the Advisory Committee to develop recommendations for prostate cancer control with specific goals, objectives, and strategic activities designed to reduce mortality and morbidity. Many projects have been undertaken in the past seven years based on the 1998 Prostate Cancer Control Plan, and the MCC decided it was time to reassess the plan and determine the need for new direction. The MCC's Advisory Committee on Prostate Cancer (ACPC) was reconvened in 2004 to review and revise the 1998 Prostate Cancer Control Plan for Michigan and to advise the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) on issues related to prostate cancer control. With the publication of this document, the original Prostate Cancer Control Plan has now been updated. A panel of prostate cancer experts and advocates assessed progress made since 1998, the current state of the science, and the experience of the panel's members to develop recommendations to guide the Michigan Cancer Consortium and the Department of Community Health for the next several years.

The ACPC was composed of experts and advocates who represented the full spectrum of Michigan institutions, agencies, and disciplines concerned with prostate cancer. Members included physicians from various specialties, nurses and other health care providers, teachers and research scientists, representatives of hospitals and other health care settings such as universities, public health entities, and professional organizations, and survivors. The ACPC was co-chaired by Raymond Demers, MD, MPH, CEO and Medical Director of the Great Lakes Cancer Institute, and David Wood, MD, Professor of Urology, University of Michigan,

Based upon a review of the relevant data and the collective experience of the group, the Committee formed three workgroups to focus on primary and secondary prevention, treatment, and survivorship. They also considered issues related to epidemiology, economics, disparities, and genetics. Priorities were identified for each of the three focus areas accompanied by specific measurable objectives and strategies to achieve the desired outcomes. The ACPC met on September 19, 2005 to review and discuss reports from each of the workgroups and to formulate final recommendations. After thoughtful study, deliberation, and discussion, the ACPC unanimously recommended that the survivorship goal and objectives be the next prostate cancer priority for focused collaborative action by the MCC and its member organizations. The Plan was presented to the MCC Board in February 2006.