

CANCER AND CAREERS CONVERSATION STARTERS

A CHECKLIST FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

Below is a checklist of suggested questions geared toward helping you facilitate a conversation between you and your patient about some of the issues around balancing work and cancer. A printable copy of this checklist can be downloaded at www.cancerandcareers.org.

HEALTH

- Have you asked your oncologist about common ways that your diagnosis, medication or treatment could affect your job performance?
- Have you found out the specific details about all of your medications and treatments, including common side effects?

WORK

- What type of work do you do? Be specific about tasks/responsibilities.
- What is the culture like at your job? (Is it small? Corporate? Close-knit/familial?)
- Do you have any concerns about working through treatment? If so, what are they?
- Have you explained to your oncologist exactly what your job entails along with any unique circumstances you'll be living with?
- Have you located your employee handbook or company policy manual? If yes, have you read it? Do you have any questions about what you've read?
- Are you concerned about disclosing your diagnosis at work [at school, or to other people in your life]?
- Are you familiar with any stress relief techniques that you can use in your workplace when things feel overwhelming or causing anxiety?
- Are you familiar with tips/solutions (including reasonable accommodations) to help you cope with treatment side effects that you may encounter in the workplace?
- Do you feel prepared to answer questions about your health or a gap on your resume, now or in a future job search?

LEGAL & INSURANCE

- What type of insurance policies do you have (e.g. health, disability, life)?
- Do you have any questions about your insurance coverage?
- Do you understand your legal rights in the workplace?
- Are you concerned that you're being treated unfairly in your workplace?
- Do you know where to go for information and support on workplace discrimination?
- Do you have any concerns about taking time off work for treatments and/or recovery?
- Do you have any questions about what you're obligated to disclose about the diagnosis to your employers?
- Do you have any questions about what you're obligated to disclose about your diagnosis to prospective employers?