Abstract Title: Developing a Cancer Rehabilitation Program: CARF International Guidelines for Cancer Rehabilitation Specialty Programs

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Objective: The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) provides accreditation services world-wide for rehabilitation programs. In 2013, CARF convened an International Standards Advisory Committee to develop standards for Cancer Rehabilitation programs. The purpose of this poster is to highlight the CARF standards and demonstrate the evidence-based, relevance of this expert consensus on best practice for a Cancer Rehabilitation program.

Methods: CARF has an established and recognized process for assisting rehabilitation centers in developing person centered, high quality, accredited programs in a variety of comprehensive rehabilitation settings (acute care, outpatient, home care) and based on specific diagnoses. In 2014 over 30 new specialty program standards for Cancer Rehabilitation have been introduced. In the presence of a comprehensive rehabilitation program and a comprehensive breast cancer program there is congruence in the patient care delivery model sufficient to enable the development of a CARF accredited Cancer Rehabilitation Specialty Program (CRSP).

Results: CARF has over 50,000 accredited programs world-wide. The new Cancer Rehabilitation Specialty Program standards have been rolled out and CARF is actively educating programs around the world regarding their implementation. The CARF CRSP standards include recommendations for clinical work flow in cancer rehabilitation that recognize the patients functional needs from the point of diagnosis, through cancer medical management and into survivorship as well as the needs of patients in palliative care. The standards provide guidance for Cancer Rehabilitation program development including; clinical care, policy initiatives, community outreach, caregiver education, outcomes measurement, quality metrics, and professional workforce development.

Conclusions: In developing a comprehensive breast cancer center, it is imperative to include rehabilitation services. CARF is an international organization providing standards for the development of Cancer Rehabilitation Specialty Programs. These standards and CARF accreditation are tools that enable the development of a successful breast cancer center focused on the person served and continuous quality improvement.