



CAREpath - The Cancer Assistance Program

All active and retired NSTU members received information with respect to a new program provided by the NSTU Group Insurance Trustees, CAREpath. If you, your spouse or dependent children suspect having cancer, are diagnosed with cancer, or living with cancer, CAREpath is a service that is ready and able to provide you with support.

CAREpath's goal is to support, not replace, health services provided by your doctors. The CAREpath navigation system provides your own personal CAREpath cancer nurse backed by an oncologist specializing in your specific cancer, who is there to support you and your immediate family through scheduled telephone discussions, every step of your cancer journey. Your CAREpath team follows the most up-to-date guidance for cancer treatment and care to ensure that you receive the very best treatment.

Your personal CAREpath oncology team will be your own cancer experts at your side from the first time you call, through your treatment and into survivorship. You can expect CAREpath and your personal CAREpath oncology nurse to provide:

- ◆ Emotional support for cancer patient and your immediate family
- ◆ Assessment of cancer treatment plan and options
- ◆ Explanation of tests and treatments
- ◆ Questions to ask on first and subsequent visits to the oncologist
- ◆ Expert advice and support through all treatment phases
- ◆ Information on how to access other support services, if necessary
- ◆ Guidance to alternate treatment locations, if required or requested
- ◆ Specialized advice and support on how to reduce risk of a recurrence or new cancer
- ◆ Advice on issues survivors may face including delayed effects of treatment

CAREpath understands that you may already have a good doctor guiding your treatment. CAREpath's goal is to enhance the care you are currently getting, not challenge it. CAREpath does not replace the doctor/patient relationship you have with your family doctor or treating oncologist. They are there to help you prepare for your oncology visits, which insure you fully understand the purpose of your appointment, making it easier to discuss treatment issues and communicate with your specialist.

It is important to note that there are no costs to you if you utilize these services. The CAREpath navigation system is a service provided by the NSTU Group Insurance Trustees.

Contacting CAREpath

There are three ways to contact CAREpath and learn more about their services. They can be contacted by telephone at 1-866-883-5956, on line at www.carepath.ca and through email at info@carepath.ca. The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees are very pleased to be able to provide this very important service to both active and retired members of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.

If you have any questions please contact: Joan Ling at jling@staff.nstu.ca, 477-5621 (local), 1-800-565-6788 (toll-free), or Allan MacLean at amaclean@staff.nstu.ca, 477-5621 (local), 1-800-565-6788 (toll-free).



[From *The Teacher*, April 2014, Volume 52 Number 6, page 18 © NSTU 2014]

update