



FOCUS: An Evidence-based Program to Improve the Quality of Life of Cancer Patients and their Family Caregivers

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Category

Software

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OVERVIEW

FOCUS is an intervention program delivered by a health professional (e.g., nurse, social worker, or psychologist).

- The program provides education and support jointly to cancer patients and their family caregivers.
- It contains everything needed to deliver the program including training program (e.g., videos, case studies, instructional guides), protocol manual, and educational materials for both patients and family caregivers.

BACKGROUND

FOCUS is a psycho-educational intervention program delivered jointly to cancer patients and their family caregivers by a health care professional (e.g., nurse, social worker, or psychologist). The program is based on Stress-Coping Theory (Lazarus) and Family Stress Theory (McCubbin). The program addresses five components that form the acronym FOCUS:

- F = Family involvement and communication
- O = Optimistic outlook
- C = Coping effectiveness
- U = Uncertainty reduction
- S = Symptom management

Specific interventions are outlined in a detailed FOCUS Intervention Protocol Manual.

INNOVATION

FOCUS is unique because a cancer patient and one of their family caregivers complete the program together as a dyad or pair. This program is delivered to cancer patients and their family caregivers in their homes, a clinic office, or a community agency by a health professional. Information about the adaptations of FOCUS, including small group and web-based formats, can be found in the training materials.

Program download contains:

- Comprehensive training program for professionals who deliver the FOCUS intervention (videos, reading materials, case studies)
- Intervention protocol manual with fidelity checklist
- Educational materials for cancer patients and their family caregivers
- Practical tips on intervention delivery from the lead research team

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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