

## Health Care Industry

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# Financial facts about treating breast cancer - includes a listing of educational resources - Costing Out Care

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Business & Health, Dec, 1996 by Marilyn Dix Smith, William F. McGhan

Longer term, the process of recovery from breast cancer has social aspects that employers can influence. A compelling report in *Cancer Practitioner*, "Surviving breast cancer: A problematic work re-entry," describes the experience and practical know-how of survivors. Study participants completed in-depth interviews that were transcribed and analyzed for common themes.

One case epitomizes the profound impact of a negative work re-entry experience on a cancer survivor's reformulating sense of self. In addition to physical symptoms, the patient had to cope with social stigma, absence of resources to help her return to work, a breach of medical confidentiality, difficulty in talking with colleagues and others about her health and difficulty asking for and receiving assistance. Although her job provided a primary source of meaning, she ultimately lost her desire to return to work.

The knowledge and understanding found in this report can guide health care providers and encourage employers to explore ways to assist survivors of breast cancer in the workplace.

Note: For a complete list of the studies used in developing this report, please fax your request to the Business & Health editorial office at 201-722-2490.

Educational resources for patients, providers and employers

The following booklets and brochures can be ordered from the National Cancer Institute at 1-800-4-CANCER.

Breast cancer screening program makes good business sense (Order code F370)

A 4-page fact sheet on implementing worksite programs.

Establishing workplace breast cancer screening programs: Blueprint for action (F368)

An 11-page brochure to help corporation or union develop a screening program and encourage female employees to use it.

What you need to know about breast cancer (95-1556)

This pamphlet discusses symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, emotional issues and questions to ask the

doctor.

Advanced cancer: Living each day (93-856)

A 32-page booklet addressing living with a terminal illness, how to cope, and practical considerations for the patient, family and friends.

Chemotherapy and you: A guide to self-help during treatment (94-1136)

This 56-page question-and-answer booklet addresses problems and concerns of patients receiving chemotherapy.

Facing forward: A guide for cancer survivors (93-2424)

This 43-page booklet presents an overview of survivor issues including ongoing health needs, psychosocial concerns, insurance and employment.

[Charts Omitted]

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