The importance of out-of-pocket cost information in the era of financial toxicity of cancer care

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To the editor,

We congratulated Fischer KA et al. for their recent important work on cancer care cost discussion and communication [1]. However, we want to emphasize the importance of out-of-pocket cost information/knowledge in the era of financial toxicity of cancer care.

As commented by the authors, out-of-pocket cost information/knowledge is one of the major components of cost health literacy competencies. Although the authors found no statistically significant association between perceived cost knowledge and reported financial distress assessment, we would like to note that up to 67% respondents reported that “a lack of access to out-of-pocket cost information” limited their ability to discuss the financial burden with patients quite a bit/strongly.

We agreed with the authors regarding the importance of clinicians' engagement with patients on financial toxicity [2]. However, we also believe in the importance of cost information [2], and more studies are needed to clarify its importance and association with cost communication.

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Compliance with ethical standards

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