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Complexity of Cancer Treatment Decisions Grows

New Online Tool Launched to Improve Patient-Physician Communication

WASHINGTON – (Jan. 24, 2017) –As new science and innovation continues to improve the clinical care of patients with cancer, patient decision making becomes even more complex. A unique partnership has resulted in a new tool that aims to help people with cancer better prepare for a discussion with their physician when making important treatment decisions.

Building on the success of the Cancer Support Community's treatment decision counseling program, Open to Options®, Let's Talk Treatment Options, provides an interactive tutorial to help cancer patients build a personalized question list that outlines important questions, concerns and important goals and priorities related to treatment. Available by visiting www.TalkingTreatment.org, this tool was developed by Empowerment and Action for Cancer Care, an alliance between the Cancer Support Community, Anthem, Inc. and Genentech.

"The Cancer Support Community is proud to be a part of this partnership and to provide such a meaningful tool for patients, families and health care professionals," said Vicki Kennedy LCSW, CSC vice president of program development and delivery. "The impact of Open to Options when provided in person at CSC Affiliates or by phone through the Cancer Support Helpline® lends itself perfectly to this expansion."

"Whether making a significant treatment decision or managing your care throughout the cancer journey, it is critical to be well-prepared when meeting with your physician. This online program will provide patients with a tool at their fingertips to organize their questions and concerns to make the most out of their medical appointments," said Jennifer Hausman, community health initiatives director at Anthem, Inc.

To learn more about Let's Talk Treatment Options, visit www.TalkingTreatment.org.

To learn more about Open to Options, visit www.CancerSupportCommunity.org/OpenToOptions.

About the Cancer Support Community

As the largest professionally led nonprofit network of cancer support worldwide, the Cancer Support Community (CSC), including its Gilda's Club Affiliates, is dedicated to ensuring that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community. CSC achieves its mission through three areas: direct service delivery, research and advocacy. The organization includes an international network of Affiliates that offer the highest quality social and emotional support for people impacted by cancer, as well as a community of support available online and over the phone. The Research and Training Institute conducts cutting-edge psychosocial, behavioral and survivorship research. CSC furthers its focus on patient advocacy through its Cancer Policy Institute, informing public policy in Washington, D.C. and across the nation. For more information, please call the toll-free Cancer Support Helpline at 888-793-9355, or visit www.CancerSupportCommunity.org. *So that no one faces cancer alone®*

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