



# 5 Strategies for Creating a Cancer Supportive Workplace





Creating a cancer-supportive workplace not only demonstrates employers' care, concern, and commitment, but is a strategic imperative in today's dynamic work environment. As the prevalence of cancer continues to impact more working age people, across all demographics and industries, prioritizing cancer support is critical. Employers who take steps to support employees improve morale, increase productivity, and enhance retention.

Here are five key strategies that will help you build an inclusive, cancer-supportive workplace.

# 1

## Awareness and education

Promoting awareness through education enables employees to understand the profound impact cancer has on individuals and their families, caregivers, and colleagues. Employer-provided education also plays a crucial role in offering unbiased information, while underscoring the importance of preventive screenings and early detection.





# 2

## Navigation, advocacy, and care coordination

Realizing that each cancer journey is unique is vital to developing a cancer-supportive workplace since every employee will have different needs. No matter the need, employees benefit from navigation, advocacy, and care coordination. Employer-provided advocates are important for ensuring employees understand their benefits and use them fully and efficiently throughout treatment and beyond.



# 3

## Schedule accommodations

Offering flexible work arrangements, like remote work and modified schedules, provide employees on a cancer journey the ability to manage their health alongside professional responsibilities. What's more, these accommodations demonstrate support to employees who assume caregiving responsibilities for loved ones diagnosed with cancer.



# 4

## Mental health support and resources

Uncertainty looms large with any cancer diagnosis, which can contribute to emotional challenges. Providing mental health support and resources, such as therapy and employee resource groups, is paramount in helping employees cope with the emotional aspects of a cancer journey. By providing resources and benefits employers are able to actively cultivate a cancer-supportive work environment.



# 5

## Return to work programs

Implementing a return-to-work program is a proactive measure to facilitate a smoother transition for employees reentering the workplace. These programs help employees reacclimate to the workplace, while they are regaining strength and confidence.





Employers who incorporate these strategies rewrite the narrative around cancer support in the workplace. Inclusive, cancer-supportive workplaces are invaluable to employees during what is often the most overwhelming time in their lives.

To learn more about what you can do  
to support your workforce, visit:  
<https://gosummus.info/cancer-resources>




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