The purpose of this guide is to help you find information and support on cancer survivorship. This guide provides links and references to reliable and current information sources for patients, families, and caregivers.

Many of the materials in this guide can be found at the Patient Education Resource Center (PERC) in the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center, Level B2.

**Brochures and Fact Sheets**

**For Children and Teens**
- American Cancer Society. *It Helps to Have Friends: When Mom or Dad Has Cancer.*
- KidsCope. *Kemo Shark.* Available online at: [http://kidscope.org](http://kidscope.org)

**For Parents**
- CancerCare. *Helping Children When a Family Member has Cancer.* Available online at: [http://goo.gl/wdy6qU](http://goo.gl/wdy6qU)
- Cancer Support Community. *Frankly Speaking About Cancer: What Do I Tell the Kids?*

**Activity Books**
- American Cancer Society. *Because... Someone I Love Has Cancer: Kids’ Activity Book*
- Van Dernoot, Peter. *Talking with my Treehouse Friends About Cancer.*
Books

For Adults


For Kids

*Ages 3 – 6*

- Clark, Julie Aigner. *You are the Best Medicine*. New York, NY: Balzer & Bray, 2010. This book delivers a soothing message from a mother with cancer to her young daughter. Reassuring and tactful, it affirms that love and kindness are the best medicine for anyone who is ill.
This book helps children understand chemotherapy and how cancer and hair loss are not their fault.

  This book helps to explain breast cancer and mastectomy simply and sensitively for the very young child.

  This book uses child-friendly language and illustrations to explain what cancer is.

  This book is an excellent resource to help explain breast cancer to their children in such a way that they not only understand cancer but can also approach the subject with less fear and anxiety.

  This book explains to a young child what cancer is and what is happening while their teacher is being treated.

  This book focuses on a young boy’s anxiety prior to learning his mother’s cancer diagnosis and his ability to adapt once provided with honest information and reassurance.

  This book is about a young child whose mother is going through cancer treatment and chemotherapy.

  This book is about a young girl whose mother has cancer. It asks questions along the way to encourage children to talk about their feelings in a relaxed manner.

  Two children see the effects of their mother's chemotherapy after they learn she has cancer.


  This book explains cancer in terms and illustrations a child can relate to. Gently and playfully guides the reader through the process of a cell to a tumor.

  When Marcus's mother has chemotherapy for her cancer and loses her hair, he tries to find new hair for her.
Ages 6 – 10

  A humorous, honest, and hopeful account of the year that Abigail and Adrienne’s mother underwent treatment for breast cancer.
  A third-grade narrator describes the class’s reaction when their beloved teacher is diagnosed with cancer.
  Nana answers 10-year-old Tessa’s questions about cancer. Nana’s answers are designed to both ease children's fears and provide them with factual information.
  This book is based on the true experiences of a family's journey through breast cancer treatment and recovery.
  This book is about a Mom with breast cancer. The story is told through the eyes of a child and lends itself to a simple and clear understanding of cancer.
  A serious illness is given a lighthearted and encouraging treatment as a young boy relates how his mother is undergoing chemotherapy for cancer.
  An 8-year-old girl keeps a journal that describes the medical treatments her mother undergoes for breast cancer, her family’s experiences, and her own feelings and concerns.
- Silver, Alex. Our Mom is Getting Better and Our Dad is Getting Better. Atlanta, GA: American Cancer Society, 2007.
  These books focus on a parent recovering from cancer. The children in the book celebrate the milestones their family has reached and reflect on the different ways their parent’s illness, treatment, and recovery impacted their lives.

Pre-Teens

  This book is in a graphic novel format.
The perspective of an 11-year-old boy on his family’s coping with his mother’s illness.

Ida B’s idyllic childhood is shuttered when her mother is diagnosed with breast cancer.

This nicely illustrated book uses a parable of circus life to underscore the importance of family, friends, and caregivers in the life of every cancer patient.

**Teenagers**

Cheng, Andrea. **Brushing Mom’s Hair.** Wordsong, 2008.
This collection of poems tells the story of a 15-year-old girl during her mother’s diagnosis and treatment for breast cancer.

This book provides an overview of cancer, describing what it is, what the various forms are that it takes, what it is like to live with this disease, and some of the available treatments.

A book for young adults focuses on mother-daughter relationships and how their family reinvented itself at a time of crisis.

Silver, Maya. **My Parent Has Cancer and It Really Sucks.** Napierville, IL: Sourcebooks Fire, 2013.
Author Maya Silver was 15 when her mom was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2001. She and her dad, Marc, have combined their family’s personal experience with advice from dozens of medical professionals and real stories from 100 teens.

**Audiovisual Resources**

CancerCare. **Helping Children and Teens Understand When a Parent or Loved One Has Cancer** Podcast by Lori Wiener, PhD, Paula K. Rauch, MD, Cindy Moore, PhD.
Available online at: [http://goo.gl/q1CvDN](http://goo.gl/q1CvDN)

CancerVive. **Kids Tell Kids what it’s Like when their Mother or Father has Cancer.** Los Angeles, CA: CancerVive 1998.
Kids do all the talking in this 15 minute video and discuss their hopes, fears, and the adult burden placed upon them when cancer strikes a parent. The film is faithful to the kid’s point-of-view and encourages communication between family members.
Web Resources

- **American Cancer Society: Dealing with a Cancer Diagnosis in the Family**
  [http://cancer.org](http://cancer.org)
  - Click the Search in the top left.
  - Type “dealing with a cancer diagnosis in the family”
  - Search

- **Cancer.Net: Communicating with Loved Ones**
  This site, by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), provides information on talking to your children or grandchildren about your cancer.

- **GroupLoop**
  [http://cancersupportcommunity.org/group-loop](http://cancersupportcommunity.org/group-loop)
  This site for teens is offered by the Cancer Support Community and is both for teens who have cancer and those who have someone close to them diagnosed with cancer.

- **Kids Konnected**
  [http://kidskonncetected.org](http://kidskonncetected.org)
  Provides understanding, education, and support for kids and teens who have a parent with cancer or have lost a parent with cancer.

- **Parenting At a Challenging Time (PACT)**
  Provides guidance for parents facing cancer.

- **Someone I Love is Sick**
  [http://someoneiloveissick.com](http://someoneiloveissick.com)
  This site is run by The Gathering Place, a non-profit committed to caring for those touched by cancer.

**University of Michigan Resources**

- **The University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center Families Facing Cancer Program**
  This program focuses on resources and programs for children who have a parent or other adult family member confronting cancer.

**Organizations**

- **Community Programs for Children and Teens Who Have a Family Member with Cancer (Michigan)**
  Cancer Support Community of Greater Ann Arbor
  [http://cancersupportannarbor.org](http://cancersupportannarbor.org)
  2010 Hogback Road
  Ann Arbor, MI 48105
  (734) 975-2500
- **Gilda’s Club of Grand Rapids**  
  [http://gildasclubgr.org](http://gildasclubgr.org)  
  1806 Bridge St NW  
  Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
  (616) 453-8300

- **Gilda’s Club of Greater Detroit**  
  [http://gildasclubdetroit.org](http://gildasclubdetroit.org)  
  3517 Rochester Road  
  Royal Oak, MI 48073  
  (248) 577-0800

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