

4 oncology care trends plan sponsors should expect in 2026

How to ensure sustainable access to patient-centered care in a rapidly evolving landscape

Are you ready to lead the way in transforming cancer care?

Use this checklist to evaluate how prepared you are for a pivotal year in oncology care — one that will be defined by innovation, personalization and a growing emphasis on equity. These indicators can help you take proactive steps in benefit design and partnership building to improve patient outcomes while managing costs.



1

The specialty drug pipeline will continue to accelerate

The FDA is expected to approve a new wave of novel oncology drugs in 2026¹ — bringing fresh hope, high price tags and complex administration challenges. These drugs include:

- + Cell and gene therapies
- + Antibody-drug conjugates
- + Bispecific antibodies

Specialty drugs checklist

- We currently/have plans to implement outcomes-based reimbursement models
- We currently/have plans to negotiate value-based contracts with oncology drug manufacturers
- We use real-world evidence to continuously refine and update our coverage criteria

Plan sponsor opportunities: Implement outcomes-based reimbursement models, explore value-based contracts with manufacturers and monitor real-world evidence to guide coverage decisions.

2

Demand for digital navigation tools will increase

Digital oncology navigation platforms will continue to gain traction for their ability to enhance patient experiences, streamline workflows and improve clinical outcomes.²

Plan sponsor opportunities: Integrate digital navigation into employee benefits, support virtual oncology care platforms and track patient-reported outcomes to refine services.

Digital navigation tools checklist

- We currently/have plans to integrate digital navigation tools into our benefits to guide patients through their treatment journeys
- We enable access to virtual oncology care platforms that reduce barriers to timely care and support
- We track patient-reported outcomes to better understand where gaps in care exist and adjust benefits accordingly

3

Cancer survivor support will be a key component of comprehensive benefits

With an estimated 18.6M cancer survivors in the U.S. today – and more than 26M projected by 2040³ – employers must expand their benefit strategies to encompass survivorship care, including:

- + Mental health support
- + Chronic condition management
- + Workplace accommodations

Plan sponsor opportunities: Offer flexible work arrangements and mental health benefits, include survivorship care plans in health coverage and train managers to support employees returning to work.

4

Health equity will take center stage

Disparities in cancer care remain a pressing issue. In 2026, expect increased focus on equitable access, inclusive clinical trials and community-based interventions.^{4,5}

Plan sponsor opportunities: Use data to identify and address gaps in care, partner with organizations focused on health equity and support culturally competent care and outreach programs.

Survivor support and workforce reintegration checklist

- We offer flexible work arrangements and mental health benefits to support survivors' return to work
- We have defined and implemented survivorship care plans as part of our benefits strategy
- Our managers are trained to understand cancer survivors' needs and provide appropriate support

Equity and inclusion checklist

- We use our data to identify gaps in care and ensure equitable access to cancer screenings and treatment to improve outcomes
- We currently/have plans to partner with organizations and advocacy groups to support health equity initiatives and outreach programs
- Our network includes providers who deliver culturally competent and appropriate care



If your checklist reveals some gaps, you're not alone. The right partner can help you confidently navigate 2026 oncology trends and tailor your benefit strategies to address persistent challenges, improving care outcomes and experiences for your employees.

Visit the [Evernorth Health Services Oncology Information Hub](#) to learn more.

1. FDA, 2025. "Oncology (Cancer)/Hematologic Malignancies Approval Notifications". <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/resources-information-approved-drugs/oncology-cancerhematologic-malignancies-approval-notifications>

2. Journal of Oncology Navigation and Survivorship, 2025. "Evaluating the Effectiveness of the National Oncology Navigation Acuity Tool: Insights From a Multisite Quality Initiative". <https://www.jons-online.com/issues/2025/march-2025-vol-16-no-3/evaluating-the-effectiveness-of-the-national-oncology-navigation-acuity-tool>

3. National Cancer Institute, 2025. "Statistics and Graphs". <https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/ocs/statistics>

4. CDC, 2025. "Health Equity in Cancer". <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/health-equity/index.html>

5. American Cancer Society, 2025. "Advancing Health Equity – Addressing Cancer Disparities". <https://www.cancer.org/about-us/what-we-do/health-equity.html>

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