Institute of Medicine (IOM) Recommendations for Action  
*Cancer Care for the Whole Patient, Meeting Psychosocial Health Needs*

1. The standard of care: All cancer care should ensure the provision of appropriate psychosocial health services by
   a. Facilitating effective communication between patients and care providers
   b. Identifying each patient’s psychosocial health needs
   c. Designing and implementing a plan that links the patient with needed psychosocial services, coordinates medical and psychosocial care, and supports patients in managing their illness
   d. Reevaluating and adjusting plans
2. All cancer care providers should ensure that every cancer patient in their practice receives care that meets the standard for psychosocial health care. Directories of available psychosocial services should be available at no cost to patients/families.
3. Patient and family education should include that patients can expect and request psychosocial care. Education should include tools and training in how to obtain information, make decisions, solve problems, and communicate effectively with health care providers.
4. National organizations such as NCI should conduct demonstration projects to illustrate implementation of the psychosocial care standard in different settings, with different populations, and with various personnel and organizational arrangements.
5. Purchasers of health care coverage should fully support the evidence-based interventions necessary to deliver effective psychosocial health services.
6. Government agencies should fund research to develop performance measures for psychosocial cancer care; oversight mechanisms for measuring and reporting quality should be created.
7. Competencies for delivering psychosocial health care must be developed; psychosocial care should be emphasized in accreditation standards, professional licensing and certification exams.
8. An initiative to develop a standardized taxonomy and nomenclature for psychosocial health services should be undertaken, with an aim to incorporate same into library databases.
9. Organizations sponsoring oncology care research should include further development of screening strategies and tools, service coordination, and outcome measurements as priorities.
10. NCI/NIH should monitor and report on progress toward improved delivery of psychosocial services.