

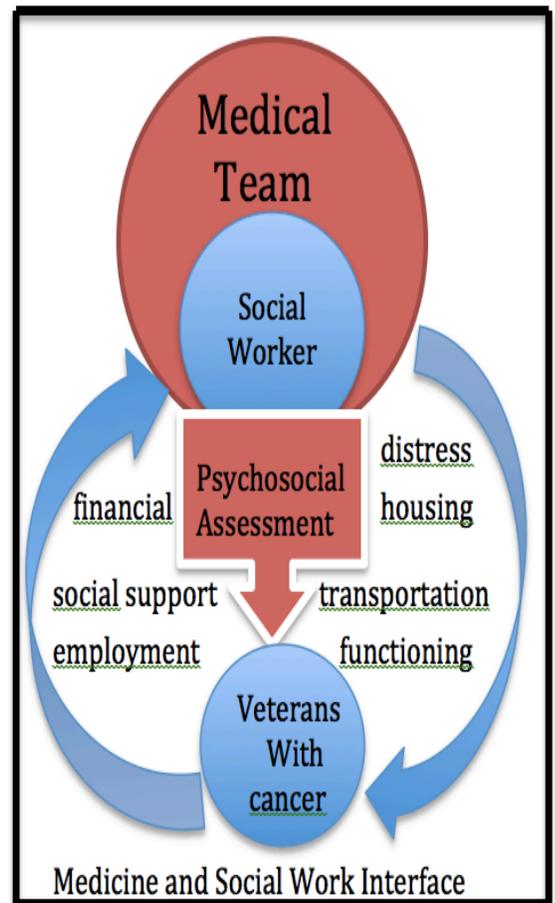
## Oncology Social Work

### What is an Oncology Social Worker?

Being told you have cancer affects you, your family and those that care for you. The VA Social Work Services has a social worker that has a main focus on the care of patients with cancer to help Veterans and their loved ones. The social worker will work with your VA health care team to provide psychosocial services for you and your family. The oncology social worker at the NF/SGVHS will work with the health care team as shown in the figure to make sure you will be able to access the care and the help that you need.

### The Oncology Social Worker will:

- Give information on resources and where to get help with gaining access to them.
- Be a speaker for you and your family.
- Give support in coping with your cancer.
- Teach skills to relax and reduce anxiety.
- Lead support and education groups.
- Help Veterans with the shift to living as a survivor.
- Help with real-world needs, deal with change and decision making, and handle cultural issues
- Help you to figure out the problems that are affecting you, your family and those that care for you.
- Listen to you.
- Apply for a place to stay during your chemotherapy and radiation treatments.
- Help you figure out and apply for social security benefits and VA disability benefits.
- Apply for help with getting you to and from your medical appointments
- Help with filling out and completing Advance Directives.



### Contacts

Oncology Social Worker: **(352) 548-6000, extension 103330**  
 Social Work Service: **(352) 376-1611, extension 106067**  
 Hematology/Oncology Clinic: **(352) 548-6000, extension 104327**



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