

# Development of a Web-based Oral Health Resource Guide for Patients and Providers

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## Abstract

Recognizing the strong potential for oral complications from cancer therapy and the gaps in resources for both providers and patients, the Oral Health Taskforce of the Partnership to Reduce Cancer in Rhode Island sought to develop a website to address this gap. A team approach, using subject matter experts, providers, patients and technical experts, has resulted in the development of the Rhode Island Cancer and Oral Health Resource Guide (RICORG). The site has been promoted to cancer centers, along with a kit of oral health care supplies. Financial support from outside organizations has been critical to the success. Data from both surveys and Google analytics have been used to evaluate the project.

## Background

Oral health concerns from cancer therapy include:

- Reduction in saliva flow leading to dry mouth
- Increased risk of tooth decay
- Oral infection

Providing information on prevention and management to patients and both dental and oncology providers could prevent harm.

## Methods

- A taskforce of diverse stakeholders was established to guide the project, write grants for funding, and plan activities
- Focus groups with subject matter experts informed content for the website

## Acknowledgements

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## Results

### Key Website Components

- Oral health education for patients, caregivers, dental providers, oncologists, and other healthcare professionals
- Site visitors can search, and are provided with additional resources in these sections:

Oral Cancer Treatment	Oral Care
Oral Hygiene	Oral Health Care Effect Support
Oral Health Assessment	Oral Health Therapy
Oral Health Care Kit	Oral Care
Oral Health Care Kit	Oral Care
Oral Health Care Kit	Oral Care

Table 1. Topic page on RICORG for both patients and providers.

### Webpage

- Includes sections for providers and patients and caregivers, using language and linking to webpages at appropriate reading levels
- RICORG's inclusion of a virtual assistant works to "guide" users through a series of decision trees to the information they are seeking

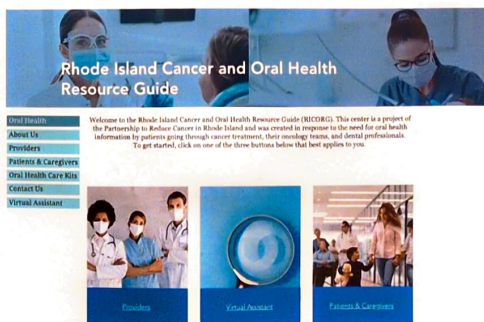


Figure 1. Homepage of RICORG with toolbar to guide users.



Visit RICORG

Scan QR Code or Link [www.prcr.org/oral-health](http://www.prcr.org/oral-health)

## Results continued

### Information Dissemination and Data Collection

- 501 kits with oral care products, educational material, and marketing for RICORG delivered to 6 RI cancer centers as well as the Izzy Foundation at Hasbro



- Surveys were distributed to collect data on effectiveness of kits, and to learn about patients' access to dental care, dental needs, and knowledge of oral health care

Figure 2. Oral care kit containing products from Side Effect Support: toothpaste, toothbrushes with shields, Moisy spray, Spry spray, XylitolMelts, ZolliDrops, CloSYS Rinse.

## Data

- Google Analytics tracks users and views
- Survey results inform impact



Figure 3. Number of RICORG views from launch date to present (left) and overview on Google Analytics Demographic Overview sheet (right).

## Next Steps

- Collect target audience feedback, including dentists and patients, to guide improvements
- Collaborate with professional associations to create awareness and increase oral health and cancer education
- Continue to seek funding to support project expansion