



Definitions – Patient Navigation Categories

Community Health Worker - Serve as an advocate for patients. Assist community members with health issues to connect with health care providers, assistive resources, and education needed to improve health care. Collect basic data needed for patient-outcomes research. Education level: GED and higher.

Patient Navigator (Coach, Advocate)- Serve as an advocate for patients. Assist patients while they receive care and/or transition back into a community. Ensure patients receive appropriate care, education, and resources needed to improve health outcomes. Conduct basic research on health outcomes. Education needed: Associate's degree and higher in health care and/or social work.

Nurse Navigator - Serve as an advocate for patients. Member of a health care team who assists patients while under treatment for health issues to obtain resources, information, and education needed for more successful outcomes. Education needed: RN or higher and specialization for particular disease classifications (oncology, diabetes, etc.)

Care Coordinator - Member of a health care team who manages, assigns, tracks, and assesses patients who are assigned to navigators and community health workers to ensure effective health care outcomes and transitions. Oversees data collection and analysis of outcomes. Education: Bachelor's degree and higher in health care and/or social work.

The Patient-Centered Education and Research Institute (The "Institute") is a Kentucky-based nonprofit that is developing national consensus on professional standards for workers who assist patients navigate the health care system.

The Institute's Mission: Support evidence-based, patient-centered health care through education, research, certification, and communication throughout the United States.

Patient Centered Education & Research Institute

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