With new research, earlier detection, and advances in treatment options, patients with cancer are living longer.

**Cancer survivorship** can have many definitions, but is often defined as the process of living with, through and beyond cancer – meaning, it begins at diagnosis, continues through the treatment phase, and after.

**Survivorship can have many aspects that impact a person’s life, including:**

- **Physical well-being:** Effects on daily living, visual activities and physical function, possible side effects from treatment.
- **Social well-being:** Effects on social participation and impact on relationships.
- **Emotional well-being:** Effects on emotional and psychosocial functioning.
- **Spiritual well-being:** Effects on mindfulness.
- **Financial:** Challenges associated with affording treatment, impact on work or ability to return to work.

**Playing an active role in the survivorship conversation:**

Patients can play an active role in working with their health care professionals to define the aspects of survivorship most important to them, and in communicating potential questions and challenges.

**Assessing components of survivorship could potentially help cancer survivors:**

- Minimize disease and treatment burden
- Envision realistic and achievable therapeutic goals after treatment
- Have informed views and communication about survival and treatment options
- Examine long-term value of care for themselves, their families and their communities

**The Bristol-Myers Squibb commitment**

Bristol-Myers Squibb is committed to studying the impact on survivorship throughout the continuum of cancer care with the goal of improving communication between patients and their care teams about quality of survival in cancer.

**Helpful resources**

- cancersupportcommunity.org
- canceradvocacy.org
- cancercare.org
- ons.org