

Caring Voices



UHN



Caring Voices

www.caringvoices.ca

An online community for cancer survivors

What is Caring Voices?

Caring Voices is a free, online community or social networking web site, for cancer survivors across Canada. It is very similar to other online communities you might use, such as Facebook or MySpace. Using the site, you can:

- Build relationships with other survivors
- Learn from each other's experiences
- Provide each other with support

You can also talk to health care providers and specialists in your community and from across the country and ask questions about:

- Your cancer experience
- What to expect
- How to manage side-effects of treatment
- Where to find more information in your community
- or just to chat.

Who can join Caring Voices?

All cancer survivors and caregivers can join!

On Caring Voices a "survivor" is **anyone** affected by a diagnosis of cancer, including patients, caregivers, family members, friends and health care professionals.

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If you or someone you know or love has been diagnosed with cancer you can find support on Caring Voices.

Why should I join Caring Voices?

On Caring Voices you can:

- Chat with other survivors who have experienced a diagnosis of cancer, undergone treatment for cancer or are coping with life after cancer.
- Chat with many different health care providers such as radiation therapists, nurses, doctors, social workers and dietitians, from your own home and without making an appointment. The health care providers can't give you specific medical advice but they can answer your questions about cancer, its treatment and side effects.
- Chat with people from organizations that are dedicated to helping people with cancer, such as, Wellspring, Gilda's Club Willow and the Canadian Cancer Society.
- Seek education and support online, even when you are feeling too ill to leave your home or you live in an area that doesn't offer a lot of community support programs.
- Find links to reliable information resources on the Internet that have been chosen by a professional Librarian.

What makes Caring Voices different from other online communities?

Caring Voices is a Canadian site that all cancer survivors across the country are invited to join. Health care professionals, survivors and community specialists from Hospitals and organizations across Canada can be found online here.

Most importantly you can trust Caring Voices, as it was created at Princess Margaret Hospital, Canada's largest cancer centre. Caring Voices is managed by a team of dedicated professionals at Princess Margaret Hospital who ensure the quality and reliability of the website on an ongoing basis

Caring Voices Communities

Caring Voices has many communities:

- General cancer
- Breast cancer
- Gynecologic cancer
- Hematologic cancer (blood)
- Gastrointestinal cancer

Each community has its own set of programming and its own special resource library.

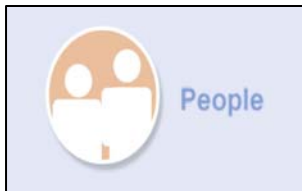
If you are a survivor of a type of cancer that does not have its own community, you are invited to join the general cancer community that has been created for everyone.

Unique Features of Caring Voices



Resource Library

The Resource Library will direct you to other websites that contain the most up-to-date, reliable health information on the Internet. All websites recommended on Caring Voices have been reviewed by a professional Librarian.



People Matching

The people-matching feature of Caring Voices lets you find other members based on search details that you choose. When you register for Caring Voices you will create a profile that includes information about yourself and your experience with cancer. If you choose, you can share this information with other members so that they can connect with you. This is a great way to make friends on Caring Voices!



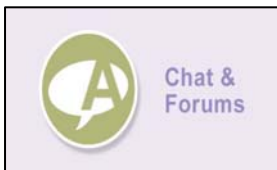
Events

An event is a one-hour, scheduled online chat that happens in real time and is lead by a community member, survivor, or healthcare professional.

Some examples of events on Caring Voices are:

Event Topic	Moderator
Parenting children while coping with cancer	Registered social worker
Questions about chemotherapy?	Registered nurse
Radiation therapy questions	Radiation therapist
Cancer is a word, not a sentence	Medical oncologist
Open chat for caregivers	Registered social worker
Drug coverage options	Pharmacist and registered social worker
Clinical trials, an “other” treatment option?	Clinical trials coordinator
Open chat for survivors	Cancer Survivor

To see upcoming Events, click on the “Events” tab on the Caring Voices home page. All you have to do to join an event is register on Caring Voices or, if you are already a member, login and click on the title of the event that you’d like to join.



Chats & Forums

Chats and forums provide a way of sharing your stories or experiences with other Caring Voices members online.

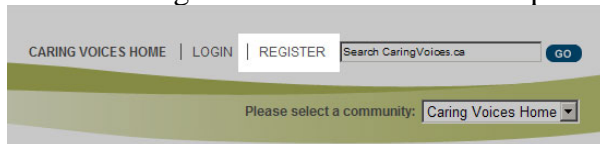
Using the Chat feature you can communicate with your friends, in real-time in one of the communities’ public chat lobbies.

Forums are like bulletin boards that are used to post questions, experiences or resources for other members to read and reply to at any time. This is a great way to share experiences and ask for advice even if you haven’t had a chance to develop your friend list.

How to Join Caring Voices

Registering

1. Visit www.CaringVoices.ca
2. Click on “Register” link located in the top left corner of the page

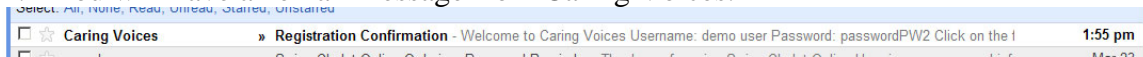


3. Identify the membership type you most closely associate with: *Survivor*, *Caregiver*, or *Visitor*.

4. Enter a user name, a password of your choosing and type in your email address. Your user name is how others will see you on Caring Voices and in the Chat and Forums.
5. When you login to Caring Voices, you can set your cancer community to load automatically
6. Click “Register”

Confirming your registration

1. Check the email address you provided.
2. You will have an email message from Caring Voices.



3. Inside the email will be a link to a Caring Voices website. Click the link to confirm your registration and start using Caring Voices.
4. You should see the registration page (pictured to the right)
5. Congratulations! You are now a member of the Caring Voices community. Start connecting with other Survivors!

REGISTER

Who can I contact if I need help using Caring Voices?

If you have questions or technical difficulties when using Caring Voices please contact the Caring Voices team at caringvoices@rmp.uhn.on.ca or 416-946-4501 ext. 3691