

# Successful Return to Work for Cancer Survivors

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## THE NUMBER OF WORKING CANCER SURVIVORS IS INCREASING:

**50%**

of cancer survivors are of working age.

**63%**

of cancer patients are able to return to work within a year of diagnosis.











**26% - 53%**

must quit working or lose their employment within six years of their diagnosis.

The following four factors influence return to work for cancer survivors:

- Bio-psychological
- Worksite
- Personal
- Systems

iCanWork OUTLINES 11 IMPORTANT STEPS TO RETURN TO WORK (RTW). THEY ARE:

- 1 Understand factors that impact work**  
Use the vocational rehabilitation model 
- 2 Assess functions**  
Ask about challenges that may impact cancer survivor's work ability 
- 3 Understand job demands**  
Ask about job analysis/description/demands 
- 4 Treat, refer or advocate for support**  
Explore if other treatments and supports can improve work ability 
- 5 Communicate about return to work**  
Engage and support communication between all parties 
- 6 Encourage cancer survivors to take control**  
Encourage cancer survivors to take an active role in rehabilitation 
- 7 Assess, identify and foster workplace support**  
Assess the readiness of the workplace to support a RTW 
- 8 Assist with and contribute to the development of the RTW plan**  
Encourage cancer survivors to explore job accommodation ideas 
- 9 Prepare the survivor for imminent return to work**  
Provide timely, work-focused information 
- 10 Help manage work expectations**  
Help manage the cancer survivor and employer's expectations 
- 11 Monitor the work situation**  
Ask cancer survivors about their challenges throughout the RTW process 