

# Cancer Screening: Patient Navigation Services to Increase Breast, Cervical, and Colorectal Cancer Screenings and Advance Health Equity

The analytic framework postulates the pathway leading from patient navigation services to increased breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening and improved health equity.<sup>1</sup>

Patient navigation services are offered to people who (1) are eligible to receive breast, cervical, or colorectal cancer screening,<sup>2</sup> and (2) self-identified as part of a historically disadvantaged racial or ethnic population, have a lower income, or both. Patient navigation services improve participants' knowledge, attitudes, and skills regarding screening for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers; increase their awareness of available healthcare system and community resources, and social and healthcare services; and increase or improve their access to services, social support, and quality of care received. These improvements can lead to increases in participants receiving recent or repeat cancer screenings; increases in follow-up diagnosis and treatment (if indicated by screening results); and decreases in cancer-related incidence,<sup>3</sup> morbidity, and mortality; leading to improved health equity.

Potential key effect modifiers include type and number of navigation services offered. Potential additional benefit includes increases in access to other healthcare services.

## References

1. Framework based on information provided in Freeman HP and Rodriguez RL. History and principles of patient navigation. *Cancer* 2011;117(S15):3537-40.
2. USPSTF recommendations for [breast](#), [cervical](#), and [colorectal](#) cancer screening.
3. Reduced incidence may not apply to all three cancers (USPSTF recommendations for [breast](#), [cervical](#), and [colorectal](#) cancer screening).