

# Southcoast Centers for Cancer Care On-Line Support Group

## Privacy and Confidentiality Terms of Participation

Thank you for participating in our on-line support group. These meetings are an opportunity for you to come together in your shared experiences, supporting and learning from each other. By agreeing to participate, you agree to be bound by the following privacy and confidentiality terms of participation.

This support group is intended to provide a forum for you to share your experiences, and is not a treatment session. The group sessions are therefore not subject to HIPAA or other federal or state privacy laws and your communications will not be protected by those laws. We still ask that you be respectful of each other's privacy.

As always protecting each other's privacy and confidentiality is so important. Please don't share each other's personal information outside of the group setting. In addition, it is prohibited to record this session without the consent of every participant.

In preparing for a video meeting, it is important to be aware of your surroundings and find a quiet, comfortable place where you can be alone to join the session. Using headphones can also help protect the confidentiality of participants.

We are utilizing ----- software which is designed to be encrypted to ensure confidentiality. Please do not attempt to record or save any of the video of messages shared in the group – again, this is prohibited.

The software may display your full name and phone number to other group participants and Southcoast. By participating in the group you are consenting to sharing this information. You do have the option to display only your first name or the platform may allow you to otherwise modify the settings related to your participation. Please be considerate of fellow group members and respect their privacy. Phone numbers and names of other participants may be viewable, but they are not for individual use and may not be stored or saved without consent.

In order to participate, you will be receiving an email with directions and log in information. Please do not share this information – this information is for participants only, and allows us to maintain group confidentiality. Email communication we send may not be encrypted during transmission and protected.

When participating in the support group, some topics may be sensitive, or you may not be comfortable with sharing personal information. Please keep in mind you can always pass or decline to share if you wish. Please only share information you feel comfortable disclosing with

the understanding that there are other participants in the support group. If there is something you wish to discuss further you can reach out the social worker individually. These meetings are not considered a group therapy session or other type of patient treatment and your communications are not confidential or privileged.

If you do not follow the foregoing terms of privacy and confidentiality, Southcoast may at its discretion suspend or prohibit your continued participation in the program. Please be advised that although each of the participants will be receiving these terms and conditions, Southcoast cannot guarantee that the information you provide during the sessions will remain private and confidential. By participating, you agree to assume the risk that this information may be released, and to not hold Southcoast responsible or liable.