

Understanding Fear of Recurrence among Chronically Ill Patients : an Analysis through the Lens of Resources

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Abstract

Fear of Cancer Recurrence (FCR) is a complex and prevalent concern among chronically ill patients. This paper presents an innovative and comprehensive analysis of FCR, with a focus on the patient resources. More specifically, the aim is to investigate FCR as an emotion elicited by a perception or actual lack of resources, coupled with a lack of control over them. Through a qualitative approach, two studies with cancer survivors and healthcare professionals aim to explore the multifaceted nature of FCR. Findings reveal that FCR can be conceptualized as a continuous emotional engagement during the care journey challenging patient interdependent resources at three different levels: individual, interpersonal and structural. Combining patients and practitioners' perspectives enables to suggest practical interventions to regain resources and control over them to better manage FCR. The multifaceted approach holds promise for enhancing the patient well-being.

Subject Areas: *Consumer Behaviour, Consumer Services, Service Quality, Service Marketing*

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