

Neuro-Oncology Program Resource Grid

This grid outlines Oncology Roundtable guidance on the resources required to develop a basic, intermediate, and advanced neuro-oncology program. It provides a framework for initial discussions on resource investment and program implementation. Data included represent key differentiating factors by program status but are not exhaustive. Leveraging internal clinical expertise prior to using this grid will allow you to enhance and customize it to reflect your institution's priorities and physician feedback.

Ratings are provided for each category indicating the relative importance of that program characteristic to the tumor site in question.

1	Least important
2	Moderately important
3	Very important
4	Most important

Program Feature	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
3 Leadership Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No formalized leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physician leader Administrative program coordinator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical director Multidisciplinary program steering committee
4 Care Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to nurse navigator No dedicated support for coordinating consults and diagnostics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated nurse navigator Coordinated consultations and diagnostics Participation in Neurosurgery's National Outcomes Database Retrospective tumor board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive patient tracking process Multidisciplinary clinics in which patient evaluation is completed in one visit, or virtually in 2-3 days Nurse practitioners for navigation and care support Prospective tumor board
3 Treatment Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adherence to nationally recognized guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active discussion of and concordance with nationally recognized guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete integration of nationally recognized guidelines or clinical pathways Access to novel treatment therapies currently in clinical trials
3 Patient Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ad hoc shared decision making Access to decision aids Education classes (e.g. chemotherapy orientation) Access to education materials Point of contact available to answer patient questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardized approach to shared decision making, including discussion of risks, benefits, and patient preferences Caregiver engagement, support Access to robust in-person and online educational resources Patient provided guidance about conducting effective online research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular use of decision aids Patient education priorities assessed periodically throughout treatment Educational information available to patients 24/7 via online portals
4 Clinical Expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neurologists and neurosurgeons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neuro-oncology subspecialized medical and radiation oncologists Dedicated fellowship-trained neuro-oncologist and CNS-specialized radiation oncologists Access to neuropathologists and neuroradiologists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated fellowship-trained brain tumor and cranial neurosurgeons Neuropsychologists Neuropathologists Neuroradiologists Pediatric neurosurgeons and neuro-oncologists Rehabilitation specialists
3 Diagnostic Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ultrasound CT PET PET/CT 3T MRI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as basic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intraoperative technology (e.g. MRI and MR spectroscopy) Interventional radiology techniques Advanced endoscopic technology Advanced MRI (perfusion) with standard protocols
3 Treatment Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IMRT Advanced molecular pathology testing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cyberknife or Gamma Knife Stereotactic radiosurgery Immunotherapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robotic surgery Tumor Treating Fields (TTF) device for glioblastoma multiform Microsurgery Endoscopic cranial base surgery Proton beam therapy Brain mapping software used for surgery
3 Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No neuro-specific clinical trials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few neuro-specific clinical trials at institution Access to clinical trial networks Data management support on a limited basis Clinical trial coordinator support on a limited basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active neuro-specific clinical research at institution Collaboration with other entities (e.g. NCI, WHO) Dedicated data management support
3 Quality Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little operational interest in gathering and using data Tumor registry main source of data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal benchmarking Actionable neurological cancer-specific dashboards Data analyses sometimes leveraged to inform program (re)design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated neurological tumor registrar Real-time data updates Dedicated neuro-oncology data mart Data analyses actively inform program (re)design Part-time data/analytic support
3 Support Services ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social work and clinical psychology available Access to oncology support groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palliative care team and spiritual counseling Dedicated dietician for cancer nutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated palliative care Neuro-oncology social workers Neuro-oncology support group Caregiver support and advising program Complementary and integrative medicine
2 Survivorship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survivorship care plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survivorship support services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated survivorship clinic
1 Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on neuro-oncology program available on-site Participation in off-site information expos, which may or may not be hospital-sponsored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community educational sessions Hospital-sponsored outreach events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage referring physicians in tumor conferences Telemedicine integration
2 Prevention/Risk Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family history screening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive high-risk clinic (e.g. dedicated space, systematic patient follow-up) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive high-risk clinic (e.g. dedicated space, systematic patient follow-up)

1) Support services are made available to neuro-oncology patients but are not necessarily dedicated exclusively to them.