

**Table 3 Items identified as very important needs<sup>a</sup> by caregivers of cancer patients****Personal care**

- Be assured patient is comfortable
- Need help with patient's emotional needs
- Need help knowing how to care for patient
- Need help with patient's pain management (i.e. medications, other)
- Knowing how to observe the effects of treatments ordered by physician
- Be taught about the medication the patient takes at home<sup>b</sup>
- Discuss the person's illness and the nursing care needed
- Getting relief for anxiety by having reasons for the person's symptoms explained
- Help using safe technique when giving care
- Discuss how changes in health status affect his/her daily living activities (e.g. ability to dress or bath self, go shopping or use phone)
- Be told about symptoms to be expected as the patient's health changes<sup>b</sup>
- Be assured that I am providing good care<sup>b</sup>
- Discuss psychological management

**Activity management**

- Opportunity to discuss ways to adapt his/her health status changes
- Help assessing his/her ability to give his/her own care (e.g. taking medication or changing a dressing)
- Help with ways of relieving the patient's physical distress<sup>b</sup>
- Chance to talk about ways of modifying the environment to make it easier for him/her to change
- Need information about community resources to help with his/her activities of daily living (meals, housekeeping, etc.)
- Take time to talk with me and answer my questions<sup>b</sup>
- Chance to discuss alternatives for providing care<sup>b</sup>
- Help with transportation

**Involvement with health care**

- Help available with emergency measures, if needed
- Need for a home care or public health nurse
- Need to be informed of any changes<sup>b</sup>
- Need to be kept informed of patient's condition<sup>b</sup>
- Need to be closer to the medical centre<sup>b</sup>
- Help conveying patient's or my concerns
- Chance to discuss situation with other health professional(s)
- Access to prescription medication
- Obtaining needed equipment
- Need for more information about home care
- Need for help in emergency situations

**Work**

- Need to balance homemaking with patient's needs<sup>b</sup>

**Interpersonal interaction**

- Need to share feelings and experiences with others in similar situations
- Need for acceptance, support, and comfort from staff<sup>b</sup>
- Need to express my own emotions
- Need to have the feeling of not being rushed<sup>b</sup>
- Need someone to listen to me<sup>b</sup>
- Need to have someone enquire about my health

**Financial**

- Need to obtain financial assistance for patient<sup>b</sup>
- Need help with additional expenses due to patient care

<sup>a</sup>Very important needs were those rated by more than 50% of participants as 9 or 10 on a scale 0-10, with 10 being the highest.

<sup>b</sup>Highest rated very important needs.