



Diagnosis

Emotional Impact

Treatment/Side Effects

Survivorship

Patient Stories

Question: Which form of cancer treatment requires the most drive time, back and forth to the treatment center?

Answer: Radiation therapy, by far. It requires daily treatments every weekday for at least a month -- about 20 trips there and 20 trips back.

Getting the patient back and forth is like planning a carpool with family, friends, neighbors and others chipping in.

It's unwise for patients to drive themselves -- especially if their cancer is advancing.

Who can an East End cancer patient turn to for help in devising a carpool-type calendar?

That's easy . . . Fighting Chance. We've done it hundreds of times over 20+ years. And it's always free-of-charge.

The Transportation Challenge

East of the Canal, there's only one radiation vault. It's in Southampton at the Phillips Family Cancer Center that opened in 2019.

Below are estimated round-trip driving distances for treatments:

From Montauk	75 miles
From Amagansett	64 miles
From East Hampton	55 miles
From Westhampton	60 miles

How often must a patient make this trip? 5 times a week (Mon-Fri) for 4 consecutive weeks.

Getting there 20 trips
Going home 20 trips
TOTAL: 40 trips

The Family Car

About 60% of American households have only one car -- and it's often used by a family member working full-time. In many cases, this means the cancer patient may be left home alone without transportation.

So let's say they live in East Hampton. How on earth are they going to get to and from 20 radiation treatments? A great option is to call Fighting Chance's Sag Harbor office at 631.725.4646



How Fighting Chance Can Help

Over the past 21+ years, we've been figuring out ways to get cancer patients to their appointments. In the case of a one-car family, we try to develop a comprehensive transportation plan to cover every treatment day.

How We Assemble a Transportation Plan These plans are like a puzzle. Imagine a calendar for one month. Now, for Monday thru Friday of each week, see if you can assign a reliable driver for all 20 of those days.

At Fighting Chance, we start with our own pool of volunteer drivers who can usually fill one day a week.

Next are the 40 local churches and other places of worship. Here we almost always find volunteers willing to handle the 2nd day of a 5-day week.

Then there are organizations whose mission, literally, includes tending to the welfare of our local communities. Examples: Lion's Club, Rotary, American Legion, Latinas Sisters Support. They usually chip in one volunteer to fill one day each week.

There's also a pool of potential volunteer drivers among the patient's extended family and neighbors. Often the patient has not disclosed their illness to this group and can't imagine asking, but we say, "they can't help if they don't know what's wrong." We usually get permission to call and usually get one or more volunteers as a result.

Finally, there is Hometown Taxi. They'll take the days we can't get coverage for. We pay a portion of the fare and they generously write off the rest as a charitable donation.

Can the Patient Make a Plan of Their Own? Maybe, but not as easily, and it takes a toll on them. Most importantly this is one worry patients can avoid because it's what we do, time and again at Fighting Chance. It's just one example of the "Patient Navigation" that we offer, always free to East End cancer patients.

Dividing line is where text should end after editing.