

## FIGURE 8.

# SPECIALIST REFERRAL NETWORK FOR SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION

The oncologist and healthcare team should build a referral network of specialists for the treatment of sexual dysfunction. The type of referral will depend on the problem with which the patient presents. A comprehensive referral network should include the following:

- A mental health professional who provides sex therapy and sexual counseling
- A gynecologist who has expertise in assessing and treating pain with sexual activity or one who can help women make decisions about hormone replacement therapy after cancer
- An urologist who has specialized knowledge and skill regarding problems of the male and female urinary tract and the male reproductive organs, and who provides medical treatment for loss of sexual desire and erectile dysfunction
- An endocrinologist who treats the deficiency or excess production of hormones causing diseases such as diabetes, thyroid diseases, and menopause
- A sperm bank that can store semen samples for men about to begin cancer treatment that could potentially damage fertility
- An infertility clinic offering in vitro fertilization and donor gamete programs that has a good success rate and staff who are familiar with cancer-related infertility in men and women
- A genetics clinic that can counsel cancer survivors regarding their concerns about birth defects or cancer risks in their offspring

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**Note.** From "Sexual Dysfunction in Multiple Myeloma: Survivorship Care Plan of the International Myeloma Foundation Nurse Leadership Board," by T.A. Richards, P.A. Bertolotti, D. Doss, & E.J. McCullagh, 2011, *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing*, 15, p. 62. Copyright 2011 by Oncology Nursing Society. Adapted with permission.

Source: Catamero et al. *Clin J Oncol Nurs*. 2017 Oct 1;21(5):7-18.