

**National Bone Marrow Transplant Link
Lunch & Learn : March 20, 2024**

**Financial Considerations Surrounding a
Bone Marrow/Stem Cell Transplant
Gregory Proctor Talking Points**

Gregory O. Proctor, and I stand before you as a living testament to the power of faith, strength, and courage.

Two minutes may not be enough to fully capture the journey I've been on, but let me give you a glimpse into my life. A few years ago, I was faced with a challenge that shook me to my core. I was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a form of cancer that affects the plasma cells in the bone marrow. It was a devastating blow, but little did I know that this would become the turning point in my life.

As I navigated through the complexities of my treatment, I encountered numerous financial problems and issues that added an extra layer of burden to an already difficult situation. The cost of medications, hospital stays, and specialized care quickly piled up, leaving me feeling overwhelmed and uncertain about how to proceed.

But I refused to let these challenges defeat me. With unwavering determination, I sought out resources and support networks that could help alleviate the financial strain. I reached out to organizations like the National Bone Marrow Transplant Link, who provided invaluable guidance and assistance in navigating the complex world of insurance coverage and financial aid programs.

Through their support, I was able to access financial resources that helped cover the cost of my treatment. They connected me with financial counselors who helped me understand my options and advocate for my needs. Together, we tackled the multiple myeloma financial problems head-on, finding creative solutions and resources to ease the burden on myself and my family.

But my story doesn't end with financial solutions. It's about the empowerment that comes from facing adversity with courage and faith. It's about the strength that lies within each and every one of us, waiting to be unleashed. It's about the inspiration that fuels our determination to overcome the hurdles that life throws at us.

Today, I stand before you as a survivor, not just of multiple myeloma, but of the financial challenges that came along with it. I am living proof that with faith, strength, and courage, we can conquer the seemingly insurmountable. We can rise above our circumstances and create a future filled with hope and possibility.

As we come together as a community, let us remember the power of our collective voice and the impact we can make when we stand united. Let us continue to support organizations like the National Bone Marrow Transplant Link, who provide a lifeline to those in need. Let us be the advocates for change and the champions of hope.

In closing, I want to leave you with this message: no matter what challenges you may face, remember that you are not alone. Reach out for support, embrace your inner strength, and hold onto your faith. Together, we can make a difference, one step at a time.

Thank you, and may we continue to inspire and uplift one another on this incredible journey of life.