## **Prioritizing Sexual Health**

# Your 30-second message should include the following 6 components:

Sexual health problems are <u>common and expected</u>, as a result of cancer treatment.

For most people, sexual health is a **quality of life** concern.

Sexual health problems are <u>healthcare problems</u>. We have <u>resources</u> to help.

You may not care now but addressing your issues sooner rather than later, can prevent long-lasting sexual health problems.

After Cancer

# **Setting Expectations**

## Patients may need anticipatory guidance related to:

- · Impact on Anatomy
- · Impact on Hormones
- Various Types of sexual problems
- · Specific treatment/therapy side effects
- Medication side effects
  - Impact on Body image/self-esteem
  - Impact on Relationships/need to rewrite sexual scripts

### Sex is what you are born with.

Depends on chromosomes, reproductive organs, and physical anatomy: male, female, intersex.

#### Gender is how you identify yourself.

A personal sense of maleness or femaleness: man, woman, gender-queer, or something else.