

# 2018 Public Outcomes Report

The Commission on Cancer is a group of professional organizations dedicated to improving survival and quality of life for cancer patients through standard-setting, prevention, research, education and the monitoring of comprehensive quality care. On August 9, 2017 Cambridge Medical Center's (CMC) oncology team was surveyed by the Commission on Cancer (CoC) and received a three-year accreditation with contingency. The contingency was resolved on May 17, 2018 and CMC was awarded a full accreditation.

In 2018 the Oncology committee worked to continue to meet the CoC's standards and eligibility requirements and met six times during the year. Committee membership is defined by the CoC and required members, or their designated alternate, are required to attend at least four of the meetings. The required members are:

- Arvind Vemula, MD, oncologist and cancer liaison physician
- Anasooya Abraham, MD, general surgeon
- Dana Nelson, MD, pathologist
- Thomas Matson, MD, radiologist
- Pam Whitehead, cancer program administrator and patient care manager
- Laurie St. Martin, RN, cancer care coordinator
- Jocey Wiedewitsch, social worker
- Nicki Klanderud, community engagement and wellness manager
- Melissa Zaffke, quality consultant
- Vickie Matthias Hagen, genetic counselor
- Jim Scott-Greene, RN, oncology nurse
- Kristi McCarty, RN, oncology nurse
- Leann Osada, certified tumor registrar.

The committee also includes representation from Administration, Nutrition Services, Pharmacy, Lab, Radiology, Allina Palliative Care, Clinic Services, Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute, the Virginia Piper Cancer Institute clinical service line, and the American Cancer Society.

In 2018 Elizabeth Gunderson, MD, oncologist, started seeing patients at CMC in addition to her practice at Buffalo. Arvind Vemula, MD, began to see patients at Buffalo in addition to his practice at CMC. Dr. Vemula sees patient at CMC on Mondays and Wednesdays and Dr. Gunderson sees patients on Tuesdays and Thursdays and then they do the opposite schedule at Buffalo Hospital, part of Allina Health

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In 2018 CMC contracted with the Metro-Minnesota Community Oncology Research Consortium (MMCORC). Joyce Kramer, RN, has joined CMC's oncology team and CMC will soon be offering clinical trials to patients. We have also worked jointly with the Allina Health Low Dose Lung Screening Core Team and in early 2019 will start offering low dose CT scans to screen for lung cancer for patients ages 55-74 who have smoked for 30 years or have quit smoking within the last 15 years.

The Commission on Cancer standards and eligibility requirements need to be met annually. Some of the projects completed by the Oncology Committee in 2018 are included below.

- A quality study on the smoking and lung cancer rates in CMC patients. This led to a quality improvement project on tobacco cessation work in the CMC Clinics.
- A quality study focused on chemo preparation timeliness.
- A quality improvement project transitioning current chemotherapy order sets to order sets based on NCCN (National Comprehensive Cancer Network) guidelines.
- An audit monitoring compliance with evidence-based guidelines. Dr. Vemula reviewed the charts of the 22 patients who were diagnosed with lung cancer in 2017. The first line of treatment was compared with the NCCN guidelines and the audit showed that the NCCN guidelines were met in each case.
- Cancer screening and prevention booths at the April 4 CMC employee health fair which was attended by over 280 employees and volunteers. Radiology employees offered breast exam education and mammography scheduling and scheduled eighteen mammograms. The Minnesota Department of Health hosted a table on the dangers of Radon and gave away testing kits. A member of CMC's Tobacco Intervention Committee shared information on local teen tobacco rates; death rates related to tobacco; the cost of smoking in MN; the numbers of chemicals in a cigarette; and the current status of tobacco cessation work at CMC. A representative from SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Program) presented myths and facts about E-cigarettes and other tobacco products that look like candy and other snacks that kids would like. There was a find it display that had approximately 20 tobacco related items on it along with candy, gum and snacks, and the game was to identify what was tobacco.
- Each year the Oncology Committee needs to establish a barrier to cancer care, and in 2018 the barrier chosen was insurance co-pay assistance. Jocey Wiedewitsch, CMC's clinic social worker, works closely with patients to assist them with the complicated insurance processes and on finding other funding and grant opportunities.
- A breast screening event was held on Sept. 19, 2018 in cooperation with the SAGE program. Five women were screened with a breast exam by Amy Hauptert, MD, and a screening mammogram and all exam results were negative. Patients were treated with snacks, hand and chair massage, and gift bags. The effectiveness of the event was evaluated by a survey completed by all five participants and the results were very positive.