

Commission on Cancer Accreditation with silver level commendation

On Oct. 1, 2014 Cambridge Medical Center's oncology team welcomed the Commission on Cancer (CoC) surveyor, Kathleen Christian, MD. Christian is a general surgeon for Mayo Clinic and practices in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The Cambridge oncology team has been working toward CoC accreditation for six years, establishing Virginia Piper Cancer Institute affiliation in December 2012 and then taking the next steps in cancer care. Receiving the accreditation with the silver level commendation is the best result possible, as programs being surveyed for the first time are not eligible for the gold level.

The CMC Oncology Committee met six times in 2014. Committee membership is defined by the CoC and includes medical oncologist Sanda Morar, MD, who is also the cancer liaison physician; Pat Schuster, MD, general surgeon; Dana Nelson, MD, pathologist; Thomas Matson, MD, radiologist, and Pam Whitehead, BSN, RN, MA, cancer program administrator. The committee also includes representation from Nursing; Cancer Care Coordination; Social Work; Administration; Quality; Nutrition Services; Pharmacy; Lab; Courage Kenny® Rehabilitation Institute; Radiology; Cancer Registry; Mental Health Services; Community Engagement; Allina Home Health; Genetics; CMC Foundation and Harbor Room; and the American Cancer Society.

The CoC standards and eligibility requirements need to be met annually. Some of the projects completed by the Oncology Committee in 2014 include:

- A quality study and improvement project focused on promoting the use of the SAGE program for mammograms. Signage was placed throughout CMC. In October a postcard about the importance of mammograms and the SAGE program was mailed to 13,000 homes in the community. The postcard included the information that 2013 statistics show that breast cancer was CMC's number one cancer diagnosis.
- A quality improvement project focusing on decreasing the colonoscopy cancellation rate by improving patient instructions, notifying ordering physicians when patients cancel and trialing Saturday endoscopies.
- A quality improvement study evaluating the number of expired oncology patients who had advance care directives in place, palliative care referrals and hospice referrals.
- An audit monitoring compliance with evidence-based guidelines. Morar reviewed the charts of the 15 patients who were diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer in 2012. The first line of treatment was compared with the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) guidelines and the audit showed that the NCCN guidelines were met in each case.

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.



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- Cancer screening and prevention booths at the CMC employee health fair held on April 2, 2014. The fair was attended by more than 300 employees and volunteers. Radiology employees offered breast exam education and mammography scheduling. The American Cancer Society representative and CMC's cancer care coordinator also provided education on the risk of tanning beds because they are now considered the same carcinogen as smoking and skin cancer is a top five cancer diagnosis at CMC.
- Cancer screening and prevention booths at the Cancer Awareness Ride and Run held on Sept. 20, 2014. The event was attended by more than 250 community members. Morar and Amanda Grace, physician assistant, completed 78 breast exams or skin screening exams. Several other booths offered education on :
 - the risk of tanning beds
 - education on the top five cancers diagnosed at CMC
 - breast exam education, mammography screening and same-day mammograms
 - stress reduction
 - Courage Kenny's Cancer Rehabilitation & Lymphedema Program
 - smoking cessation
 - American Cancer Society cancer information.
- Monthly tumor conferences were attended by physicians, pharmacists and nurses to review newly diagnosed patients and discuss the diagnosis and optimal treatment plan.