

**Cancer Program Report of 2011  
Program Activities**



The Cancer Center  
at CVMC is accredited by:



## 2012 CVMC Cancer Committee Report of 2011 Program Activities

This annual summary for 2011 highlights Cancer Program activities and projects related to cancer care, cancer patient services and education at Central Vermont Medical Center (CVMC). The CVMC Cancer Committee is charged with a number of responsibilities to include promoting multidisciplinary cancer care, maintaining a high quality cancer registry, supporting education and clinical research trials at the medical center.

### Cancer Program Activities 2011 and Accreditation Survey 2012

The CVMC Cancer Committee had a very busy and productive 2011, resulting in a successful survey for cancer program accreditation by the American College of Surgeons (ACoS), Commission on Cancer (CoC) on May 1, 2012. The survey assessed the quality of our cancer program and services. The CoC physician surveyor, Marvin Lopez, MD, recognized CVMC's true commitment to patient centered standards of care. CVMC was awarded a three-year full accreditation, without deficiencies and with several areas of commendation. The surveyor recognized CVMC's commendation level accomplishments where cancer program activity exceeded CoC standards in these areas:

- ❖ Standard 3.3 Abstracting Timeframe (Cancer Registry): Exceeded 90% timeliness standard for data abstraction.
- ❖ Standard 3.7 National Cancer Data Base (NCDB) Quality Criteria: Initial registry data submission to NCDB was error-free.
- ❖ Standard 4.6 College of American College of Pathologists (CAP) Guidelines: All reviewed pathology reports were compliant with College of American Pathologists protocols and were in synoptic format.
- ❖ Standard 5.2 Clinical Trial Accrual: The CVMC Cancer Program had over 7% patient accrual rate in 2011.
- ❖ Standard 6.2 Prevention and Early Detection: Multiple screening and early detection programs are offered annually, exceeding CoC standards.
- ❖ Standard 8.2 Cancer-related Quality Improvements: More than two improvements affecting cancer care were implemented and documented in 2011, exceeding established standards.

### Multidisciplinary Cancer Care

CVMC offers a full range of comprehensive services to our community, supporting cancer prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and end of life care. The medical center practices a multidisciplinary, team approach to patient care, to ensure the availability of a full scope of services to our patients and the families of those living with cancer.

Optimizing patient cancer care involves taking a collaborative approach. Multidisciplinary management of cancer leads to coordination of care to best meet patient needs and to improve outcomes. One essential element of multidisciplinary patient management is the CVMC Cancer Conference/Tumor Board. Our



twice monthly Cancer Conference provides an essential forum for multidisciplinary cancer consultative services to our cancer patients, as well as educational opportunity for our physicians, allied health professionals and support staff. The Cancer Conference is well established within the medical center and consistently well attended. The CoC physician surveyor who evaluated our cancer program noted that our “multidisciplinary (cancer) conference was excellent.” In 2011, there were 119 cases presented at the medical center’s multidisciplinary tumor conference, representing 39% of the cancer cases diagnosed and/or treated at the medical center during the 2011 calendar year.

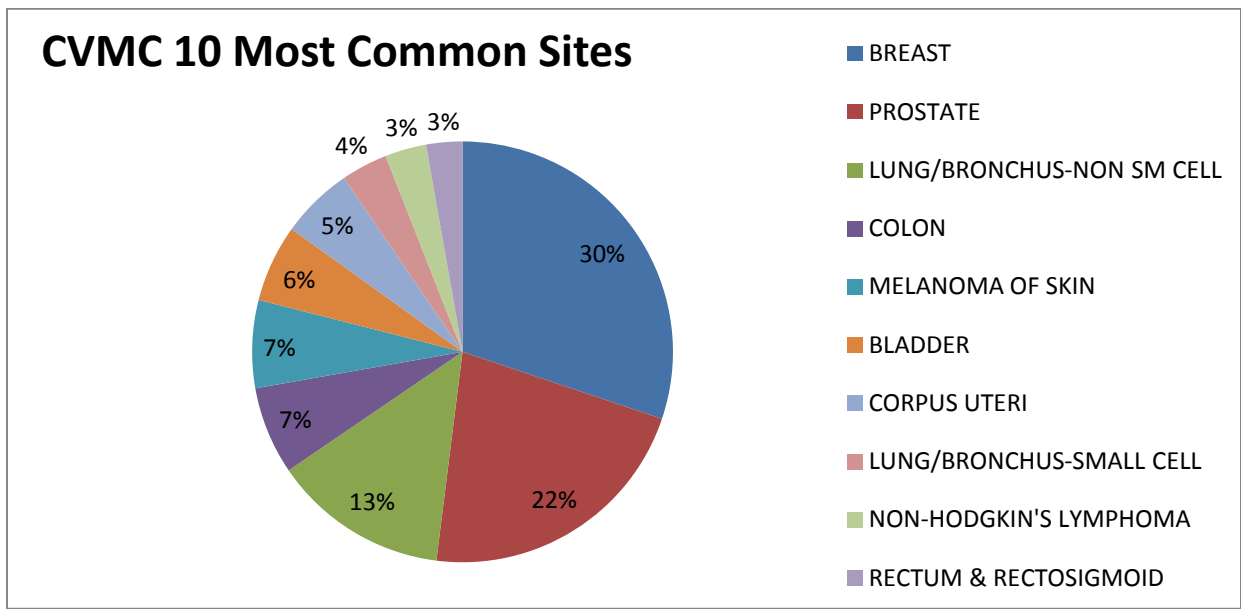
Clinical Trials and Research

The medical center offers access to National Cancer Institute sponsored clinical trials through our affiliation with the Vermont Cancer Center, giving our patients the opportunity to participate in the advancement of evidence based medicine. During calendar year 2011, more than 7% of CVMC patients diagnosed and/or treated at the medical center that year were accrued to treatment trials and quality of life studies.

Cancer Registry

The medical center maintains a cancer registry, which is a computerized information system used as a resource for the investigation of cancer and its causes. Registry data is used within the medical center for planning, evaluating cancer trends, performing studies of quality and enhancing education and prevention. By law, data is reported to the State of Vermont Cancer Registry to assist the state in its effort to determine incidence and mortality trends, as well as to assist with their prevention, control and treatment programs. Cancer registry data is also reported directly to the CoC National Cancer Data Base (NCDB).

In 2011, the medical center entered 309 cancer cases into the cancer registry database, accounting for all cancers diagnosed and/or treated at CVMC during the calendar year. The three most commonly diagnosed cancer sites at CVMC are breast, prostate and lung cancer as shown below.



Source: CVMC Cancer Registry

Data Reporting to National Cancer Data Base (NCDB)

The National Cancer Data Base is an oncology outcomes database used by American College of Surgeons accredited facilities. Data submitted by CVMC to the American College of Surgeons NCDB is used to assess the quality of patient

care. The data enables accredited cancer programs to compare treatment and outcomes with national patterns of care, as they are useful benchmarks for assessing patient care. CVMC made its first data submission of 2010 cancer cases to the NCDB for assessment and inclusion in their database. The data met the CoC quality criteria on initial submission and CVMC received commendation from the CoC for an error-free submission of cancer registry data.

### Cancer Liaison Physician Report

Through on-going assessment of our cancer program initiatives and meaningful analyses of our clinical practices, the CVMC Cancer Committee ensures that patients with cancer are treated according to nationally accepted measures. As a Community Hospital Cancer Program with CoC accreditation we have access to a number of their benchmarking tools to assist our cancer program in evaluating the quality of our patient care. These benchmarking tools were implemented for the purpose of fostering quality improvement at cancer programs awarded accreditation. The quality measures for the treatment of breast and colon cancer, as well as CVMC's performance rate as it compares with accredited facilities state-wide, in New England, and with other accredited cancer programs, are shown below. CVMC had no cases of rectal cancer that fit the CoC criteria for the rectal cancer quality measure. To date, CVMC has made one data submission to the CoC; the data below represents CVMC's first year of data submitted to the data base.

#### Breast Care Quality Measure Radiation Therapy

Source: American College of Surgeons NCDB CP3R, Dec. 2012

Radiation therapy is administered within 1 year (365 days) of diagnosis for women under age 70 receiving breast conserving surgery.	Performance Rate	Cases	Number of Programs
<b>CVMC Cancer Program</b>	100.0%	17	
<b>State of Vermont CoC Programs</b>	97.2%	178	6
<b>New England American Cancer Society/Northeast</b>	92.6%	3709	106
<b>All CoC Community Hospital Cancer Programs</b>	88.1%	8018	492
<b>All CoC Approved Programs</b>	89.1%	53326	1356

#### Breast Care Quality Measure Chemotherapy

Source: American College of Surgeons NCDB CP3R, Dec. 2012

Combination chemotherapy is considered or administered within 4 months (120 days) of diagnosis for women under 70 with AJCC T1c, N0, M0, or Stage II or III ERA and PRA negative breast cancer.	Performance Rate	Cases	Number of Programs
<b>CVMC Cancer Program</b>	100.0%	5	
<b>State of Vermont CoC Programs</b>	100.0%	42	6
<b>New England/American Cancer Society</b>	94.0%	650	98
<b>All CoC Community Hospital Cancer Programs</b>	90.6%	2047	447
<b>All CoC Approved Programs</b>	90.6%	13644	1283

#### Breast Care Quality Measure Tamoxifen

Source: American College of Surgeons NCDB CP3R, Dec. 2012

Tamoxifen or third generation aromatase inhibitor is considered or administered within 1 year (365 days) of diagnosis for women with AJCC T1c, N0, M0, or Stage II or III ERA and/or PRA positive breast cancer.	Performance Rate	Cases	Number of Programs
<b>CVMC Cancer Program</b>	100.0%	15	
<b>State of Vermont CoC Programs</b>	100.0%	141	5
<b>New England/American Cancer Society</b>	89.2%	4213	105
<b>All CoC Community Hospital Cancer Programs</b>	82.5%	10906	595
<b>All CoC Approved Programs</b>	84.8%	72287	1363

## Colon Cancer Quality Measure Adjuvant Chemotherapy

Source: American College of Surgeons NCDB CP3R, Dec. 2012

Adjuvant chemotherapy is considered or administered within 4 months (120 days) of diagnosis for patients under the age of 80 with AJCC Stage III (lymph node positive) colon cancer.	Performance Rate	Cases	Number of Programs
<b>CVMC Cancer Program</b>	100.0%	2	
<b>State of Vermont CoC Programs</b>	100.0%	22	5
<b>New England/American Cancer Society</b>	95.9%	484	104
<b>All CoC Community Hospital Cancer Programs</b>	89.7%	1920	465
<b>All CoC Approved Programs</b>	90.7%	10054	1328

## Colon Cancer Quality Measure Regional Lymph Nodes Removed

Source: American College of Surgeons NCDB CP3R, Dec. 2012

At least 12 regional lymph nodes are removed and pathologically examined for resected colon cancer.	Performance Rate	Cases	Number of Programs
<b>CVMC Cancer Program</b>	100.0%	6	
<b>State of Vermont CoC Programs</b>	88.2%	68	6
<b>New England/American Cancer Society</b>	87.1%	1834	109
<b>All CoC Community Hospital Cancer Programs</b>	81.9%	6610	495
<b>All CoC Approved Programs</b>	86.5%	33735	1371

The above tables estimate CVMC's performance rate with recognized standards of care for breast and colon cancers as calculated by the American College of Surgeons, Commission on Cancer. For each standard, CVMC either met or exceeded the performance levels achieved by the other CoC accredited facilities, demonstrating our commitment to deliver comprehensive, quality care, in accordance with nationally recognized standards of care. Visit [www.facs.org](http://www.facs.org) for more information regarding accredited cancer programs.

### Quality Initiatives

CVMC undertook a number of quality initiatives to enhance patient care and to meet the needs of the community we serve. The medical center recognizes the importance of integrating continuous quality improvement into our patient-centered practices. In addition, our affiliation with Fletcher Allen Health care will enable CVMC to better coordinate and enhance the care we deliver to our community.

Our quality initiatives for 2011 offered the following benefits:

- ❖ Addition of a second monthly Cancer Conference
- ❖ Establishment of a prostate brachytherapy program
- ❖ Achieved American College of Radiology accreditation in Radiation Oncology
- ❖ Completion and opening of the Cancer Resource Room
- ❖ Acupuncture services offered to oncology patients on-site
- ❖ On-site MRI
- ❖ Aquatic Wellness Center
- ❖ Update of the CVMC website to include cancer services and an online comprehensive cancer care resource for patients
- ❖ Hospital wide customer service initiative
- ❖ Improved, streamlined procedures for breast care in our Diagnostic Imaging department and upgrade of stereotactic breast biopsy equipment

## Patient Navigator

CVMC has had a patient navigator for cancer care since 2009. The primary goal of patient navigation at CVMC is to assure that patients get the cancer screenings, cancer treatment and other cancer-related medical and supportive care they need when they need it. CVMC's Patient Navigator is part of the Diagnostic Imaging, Medical Oncology and Radiation Oncology teams, and is available to Surgical Services and all other CVMC departments. She also provides services to patients in the CVMC service area who are receiving their cancer care outside of CVMC. She helps patients remove obstacles to obtaining their cancer care, such as insurance, financial and transportation challenges, and links patients to support services. She conducts community outreach for cancer prevention and early detection.



## Supportive Services

CVMC offers several supportive services to cancer patients. In addition to employing a patient navigator, CVMC has an oncology clinical social worker on staff. Volunteers provide Reiki and massage weekly, and patients can receive acupuncture onsite at no charge. We maintain a fund to help patients with emergency and personal needs. In partnership with the American Cancer Society, we have a resource room as well as cancer resource volunteers who assist in the infusion suite. We offer ACS's Man-to-Man prostate cancer support group and their Look Good . . . Feel Better program. We refer patients to the rehabilitation and nutrition services available at CVMC or other providers of their choice.



## Community Outreach

CVMC partners with several organizations to widen our cancer-care reach. With funding from Susan G. Komen for the Cure, in 2010 and 2011 CVMC offered twelve free Women's Health Clinics in partnership with our local clinic for the uninsured. Free Mammogram Days were held at CVMC in February, May and October 2011. Mammogram Outreach Days took place in October and November 2011 at two local supermarkets with outreach to 238 individuals. Our Komen grant is also used to pay for screening and diagnostic breast imaging for women in the CVMC service area who are uninsured or underinsured.



Our patient navigator helps organize the general cancer support group held in the community. She also collaborates regularly with a local peer support organization that links patients in active treatment with trained cancer survivors. Our cancer program is one of the members of Vermonters Taking Action Against Cancer, a statewide organization that works to reduce the impact of cancer on all Vermonters, and three of our staff serve on VTAAC committees.

CVMC staff lead regular Healthier Living workshops and Tobacco Cessation classes. In 2011, our cancer program staff led three cancer-related community educations: "Understanding Cancer," "Understanding Cancer Treatments," and

“Understanding Blood Counts.” We also conducted skin cancer prevention outreach at local schools and municipal summer camp programs.

CVMC offers annual prostate cancer screening clinics. The September 2011 clinic was staffed by three urology providers and support staff. Thirty-six men were screened, with five referred for further evaluation as a result of the screening.

Central Vermont Medical Center strives to provide our community with collaborative, community-based cancer care through a wide spectrum of cancer services. We recognize that comprehensive cancer care includes access to clinical research trials, patient education and patient support. Our cancer program goals are consistent with CVMC’s mission to work collaboratively to meet the needs and improve the health of the residents of central Vermont. Visit [www.cvmc.org](http://www.cvmc.org) for additional information on cancer care at Central Vermont Medical Center.

### CVMC Cancer Committee 2011

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Ed Ziedins, MD  
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Cathy Lash, CTR, CCA  
CVMC Cancer Registry

Theresa Lever, M.Ed, Patient Navigator  
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Nancy Lothian, Chief Operating Officer  
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Karen McQuesten, Clin Trial Coordinator  
Medical Oncology

Elaine Owen, APRN, AOCN  
Medical Oncology

Barbara Sharp, RN, CPHQ, CPHRM  
Quality Management

