

Cancer Committee

2013 Annual Report of 2012 Cancer Program Activities



Cancer Program 2013 Annual Report

In 2012, CVMC marked its initial survey for accreditation by the American College of Surgeons, Commission on Cancer (ACoS, CoC), resulting in a successful survey for cancer program accreditation as a Community Hospital Cancer Program. The survey assessed the quality of our cancer program and services. Our cancer program was awarded a three-year full accreditation, without deficiencies and with several areas of commendation, recognizing CVMC's accomplishments where our cancer program activity exceeded CoC standards. The physician surveyor recognized CVMC's true commitment to patient centered standards of care.

- 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.

Nationally Accredited by
The American College
of Surgeons



Our cancer care team 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. In 2012, 116 cancer cases were presented at the medical center's twice monthly multidisciplinary conference, providing an essential forum of multispecialty cancer consultative services to our cancer patients. The ACoS physician surveyor who evaluated our cancer program noted that our "multidisciplinary (cancer) conference was excellent."

Clinical Trials

CVMC recognizes that comprehensive cancer care includes access to clinical research trials. Through our affiliation with the Vermont Cancer Center we participate in National Cancer Institute sponsored clinical trials, giving our patients the opportunity to participate in the advancement of evidence-based medicine. Clinical trials are key to assisting researchers in developing new methods to prevent, detect and treat cancer. Our commitment to evidence-based medicine is demonstrated in patient accruals that exceed Commission on Cancer patient participation standards.

Cancer Registry

The medical center's cancer registry maintains a confidential database that captures a complete summary of the history, diagnosis, treatment and disease status for every cancer patient diagnosed and/or treated at CVMC. The cancer registry is 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 cancer prevention. The cancer registry also assures that all cancer patients receive adequate follow-up. 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, cancer control and treatment programs. Cancer registry data is also reported to the ACoS, COC National Cancer Data Base.

The medical center's cancer registry is staffed by a cancer registrar who is credentialed in the field. There were a total of 306 cases entered into the medical center's cancer registry database in 2012. Our five most commonly diagnosed cancers in 2012 were breast, non-small cell carcinoma of the lung/bronchus, prostate, colon and bladder cancer respectively.

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 NCDDB allows our cancer program to benchmark our data with a national data set, enhancing our ability to track outcomes and allowing us to compare our performance with other ACoS accredited facilities. Our cancer program exceeds comparative data sources in all of the ACoS performance measures for treatment of colon cancer, breast cancer and rectal cancer. 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. Visit 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. Below are highlights of our 2012 quality initiatives:

- Central Vermont Women's Health opened second location at Waterbury Medical Associates.
- Clinical rotation of specialized nursing staff in our medical oncology infusion suite with a goal to increase our certified oncology nursing staff.
- Addition of an on-site registered dietician to provide nutritional support to oncology patients.
- Established formal process for oncology services to identify patients who would benefit from referral to rehab services.
- Rehabilitation Services on-site at National Life Cancer Treatment Center to support oncology patients.
- Formalization of inpatient palliative care services with outpatient palliative care consults now offered in Medical Oncology.
- Implemented formal process to provide improved tobacco cessation intervention. Completion of University of Massachusetts Medical School "Basic Skills for Working with Smokers" course by Patient Navigator.

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. In 2012, 380 hours of Reiki, massage and acupuncture were provided at no charge to patients. We

maintain a fund to help patients with emergency and personal needs. During 2012, \$12,071 was used to assist with oncology patients' emergency and special 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, CVMC offered thirteen free Women's Health Clinics in partnership with our local clinic for the uninsured.



Mammogram Outreach Days took place in September at local free community meals programs. 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. In 2012, 48 women benefited from free and subsidized breast imaging.

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 led regular Healthier Living workshops and Tobacco Cessation classes with 37 people registering in the offered 2012 tobacco cessation classes. In 2012, our cancer program offered two cancer-related community educations: "Movement is Medicine Too!" and "Cancer Survivors: What We are learning, What We Need to Know." We also conducted skin cancer prevention outreach at Spaulding High School in May.

The CVMC annual prostate cancer screen clinic in September 2012 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, multispecialty 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 for additional information on cancer care at Central Vermont Medical Center.



CVMC Cancer Committee 2012

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