As an accredited Commission on Cancer (CoC) program, Cleveland Clinic Akron General McDowell Cancer Institute provides the Public Reporting of Outcomes to show the results of activities completed by our cancer program as required by the American College of Surgeons (ACOS) CoC. Accreditation is granted to facilities that have demonstrated compliance with the CoC Eligibility Requirements and Standards. To maintain accreditation, cancer programs must undergo an on-site survey every three years. We were awarded our Three-Year Accreditation with Commendation last year, which is only awarded to a facility that exceeds standard requirements at the time of its triennial survey.

Our program’s Cancer Committee is responsible for monitoring, assessing and identifying changes that are needed to maintain compliance with CoC criteria.

2018 Cancer Committee

PHYSICIAN MEMBERS:

Esther Rehmus, MD (Chair)
Noaman Ali, MD
Brian Canterbury, MD
Andrew Fenton, MD
Thomas Herbener, MD
Amanda Mendiola, MD
Mary Murray, MD
William Papouras, MD
Angela Powell, MD
Ashok Ramalingam, MD
Sonia Sandhu, MD

ADMINISTRATIVE MEMBERS:

Amanda Benedetti, PharmD
Connie Bollin, MBA, RN
Wendy Catchpole
Rebecca Daubner, LISW OSW-C
Alicia Ferrell, MS, RD, LD
Kristen Glaspell
Dena Hunt, LISW, LCDC III, OSW-C
Julie Imani, MSN, RN, CNS, OCN
Liz Lattimer, RN, BSN, OCN
Mary Anne Loftus, RN, BS
Kathy Lukity, RN, BSN, CBCN
Jessica Marquard, MS, LGC
Michael McNeal, RN, BSN
Gillian Myers, MSN, RN, CNS, ACNS-BC, ACHPN, OCN
Linda Roberts
Brenda Runion, PT, MEd, DPT, CCCE
Renee Santin, CTR
Sara Scafuro, BSN, RN
Margaret St. Jean, BSN, RN, OCN
Jeannie Terry, CTR
Claire Wilson, DPN, APN, RN
Tiffany Williams, MPA – ACS Representative
Outcomes: Art Therapy
Art Therapy Accomplishments in 2018

479
ART THERAPY VISITS FROM JANUARY TO OCTOBER

327
patients, family members and friends participated in the art therapy program from January to October

152
guests participated in the 6th Annual Cancer Survivorship Celebration on June 6

Multiple opportunities were available to patients, family members and their friends for art therapy services, including:

152 guests participated in an art therapy project during the 6th Annual Cancer Survivorship Celebration event on June 6, 2018. The art therapist instructed participants to draw another person, but while looking at the person, not at their paper, and do so without lifting their pen. The resulting caricatures were entertaining and promoted discussions.

27 patients decorated pumpkins in October to kick off the fall season.

19 art therapy kits have been distributed since May 2018 to patients and caregivers at the Cancer and Infusion Centers on days that the art therapist is not available. The kits include art materials and instructions for a painting or a collage project. This is a brand-new service introduced in 2018.

The 6th Annual Art Therapy Exhibit will be displayed in the Physician Office Building lobby throughout the entire month of December, showing artwork created this year by patients and caregivers.
Outcomes: Art Therapy
Art Therapy Accomplishments in 2018

The latest group art therapy piece, Forging Ahead, is completed and showcases the USS Believe. The original piece is hanging in the lobby of Akron General's Infusion Center at Health & Wellness Center, Green, and is the cover of this year's Public Reporting of Outcomes. Stay tuned for a new group art therapy project coming in 2019.

Cover: 116 patients and caregivers participated in this art project.

The boat in Forging Ahead began as a symbol of moving forward toward healing. Patients voted on a list of five suggested names for the boat and the USS Believe was the clear winner. The boat represents the determination of the patient to continue moving forward, featuring words of hope and encouragement, while the water symbolizes all of the negative thoughts and emotions that patients commit to leaving behind in their journey.
Outcomes: Resource Counselors

Akron General has two full-time resource counselors, both licensed independent social workers, as well as oncology certified social workers and one full-time reimbursement specialist. They work together to help every new oncology patient who is starting treatment.

When a new patient is scheduled, the front office notifies the reimbursement specialist. This person is responsible for completing a benefits investigation to get the details of the patient’s insurance coverage (ex. deductible, maximum out-of-pocket, coinsurance, copays).

For patients who have a remaining maximum out-of-pocket amount with their insurance, the reimbursement specialist always looks for charitable foundation assistance. If approved, foundation assistance helps with the cost of chemotherapy.

Ideally, patients are scheduled for a chemotherapy teaching session with one of the nurse practitioners prior to starting treatment. At this visit, a resource counselor will meet with the patient to go over available local resources, insurance benefits and coverage, financial assistance options and answer questions about FMLA (Family and Medical Leave Act), short term disability, social security and advance directives. If applicable, the resource counselor will review foundation assistance as well.

If patients are not scheduled for a teaching session, a resource counselor will meet them at their first treatment, either in the treatment center, radiation oncology or one of the three satellite infusion center facilities.

In addition, the reimbursement specialist also manages the prescription assistance applications (both oral and IV medications), works with doctor offices and manufacturers for off-label drug use, reviews charges for accuracy, reviews foundation availability for each new patient, submits billing and treatment records to foundations for payment and posts payments for patients who are approved for copay or foundation assistance.

Depending on the needs of each individual patient, our team ensures that patients are aware that resource counselors are available for assistance at any point in their treatment journey.
Outcomes:
Cancer Genetics Evaluations

219 patients
WERE EVALUATED BETWEEN JANUARY AND OCTOBER

Hereditary cancer conditions increase the risk of developing cancer and possibly passing it on. It’s important to determine whether you have one of these conditions because screening and surgery can help. When patients are referred, an appointment is made at Reflections Breast Center. Patients can be seen for all indications for cancer genetic counseling, but the majority of patients seen are for breast cancer, family history of breast cancer or a family history of a genetic mutation.

At the appointment, our medical genetics expert reviews the patient’s personal and family histories to identify hereditary cancer conditions, discusses genetic testing options and obtains informed consent for testing, if indicated. The caregiver will also explain health risks along with offering education, guidance and support for the entire family.

Genetic testing isn’t for everyone. There are instances when the testing could be indicated for a family member instead of the patient. Results for testing usually take about two to three weeks. Patients are called about their test results and if someone tests positive for a mutation, a follow-up appointment is scheduled.
Outcomes:
Prevention & Screening Programs
Standard 4.1 – Prevention Programs

HPV Vaccine Education as Cancer Prevention

HPV causes nearly all cervical cancers and many cancers of the vagina, vulva, penis, anus, rectum, mouth and throat. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), every year about 14 million Americans become infected with Human Papillomavirus (HPV). About 12,000 HPV positive women are diagnosed with and about 4,000 women die from cervical cancer caused by certain HPV viruses. The CDC states that HPV vaccination prior to becoming infected with HPV has the potential to prevent more than 90 percent of these cancers from ever developing. This is supported by recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the American Cancer Society. In our hospital, we are seeing HPV+ cervical cancers and there has been a 73 percent increase in head and neck cancers in the last year. Of note, in October the U.S. Food & Drug Administration approved the use of the vaccine to include men and women aged 27 through 45 years.

August 18, 2018
Summit for Kids, John S. Knight Center, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
• 32 children seen for exams
• HPV info given to all parents/guardians
• 19 males and 13 females seen
• Of the 15 eligible, none had started or received the HPV vaccine series
• 17 children were under the age for receiving the vaccine
• Message to adults: This is cancer prevention
• Navigation: All are being followed
Outcomes:
Prevention & Screening Programs

Colon Cancer Prevention

According to our most recent CHNA, an area of significant concern in our community was colorectal cancer. Based on the NCCN and American Cancer Society guidelines, we utilized Cleveland Clinic’s online five-minute colon cancer risk assessment tool. After completing the assessment, participants received a colon cancer risk score and personalized screening recommendations. Our hope is to educate and increase awareness about the need for screening for the third most common cancer diagnosed in the United States.

March 17, 2018
Come Cook With Us!, Fresh Thyme Farmers Market, noon – 1 p.m.
• Presentation by dietitian Alicia Ferrell, MS, LD, RD, about lowering colon cancer risk through diet
• 25 people in attendance
• 2 people opted to participate in the risk assessment
• Both were under the age of 50 and average risk
• Navigation: Both being followed

April 19, 2018
Minority Men’s Health Fair, Akron General’s Ambulatory Care Center, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
• This is the first year for Cleveland Clinic to host one of these events at Akron General
• Target audience was minority men of all ages
• 139 in attendance
• African American men are at higher risk for an earlier onset of colorectal cancer
• Screening for this cohort should begin at age 45
• 3 men opted to participate in the risk assessment
• All 3 men were between the ages of 30 and 40 and average risk
• Navigation: All are being followed

May 19, 2018
Senior Summit 2018, Firestone CLC (aka High School), 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
• Free county event celebrating older adults
• 500+ in attendance
• Only 1 woman (age 68) opted to participate in the risk assessment
• She was classified as medium risk and stated she was aware and has colonoscopies regularly
• Navigation: She is being followed

June 2, 2018
“Hoop for Coop” 2nd Annual Men’s Health Fair & Basketball Tip-Off, North High School, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
• Event to add awareness to health disparities among disadvantaged populations
• 125 men in attendance
• One 70-year-old man participated
• He was classified as average risk
• Navigation: He is being followed
Outcomes:
Prevention & Screening Programs
Standard 4.2 – Screening Programs

Prostate Cancer Screening

Per the USPSTF, in the United States, African American men are more likely to develop prostate cancer than white men and are also more than twice as likely as white men to die of prostate cancer. The higher death rate is attributable in part to cancer onset at an earlier age, more advanced cancer stage at diagnosis, and higher rates of more aggressive cancer. These differences in death from prostate cancer may also reflect that African American men have lower rates of receiving high quality care.

Considering the guidelines from NCCN and ACS, and the fact that prostate cancer was listed as an area of concern in our most recent CHNA, we offered PSA testing at our first Minority Men’s Health Fair. Attendees met with the urologist, discussed pros and cons of PSA testing, and then made a joint decision to screen or not.

If deemed appropriate, blood was drawn for the PSA, results were sent to the urologist for review and the men received a letter with their results. It was recommended to submit those screening results to their health practitioner. If someone did not have a healthcare provider, the urology office followed up with the patient.

April 19, 2018
Minority Men’s Health Fair, Akron General’s Ambulatory Care Center, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
• 65 men met with the urologist individually
• Age range was 36-86
• 65 men agreed to PSA screening
• 58 had results in the normal range
• 7 had an elevated result
• All received results via a letter from the urologist
• If no physician was on record, the urology office followed up with the patient
• Navigation: All are being followed

Note: In our 2017 Public Reporting of Outcomes, we reported on a Prostate Cancer Screening event where we offered PSA testing. All men who were tested received a letter from the urologist and a follow-up phone call. There was one elevated PSA level. In October, the wife of the man with the elevated result reached out to let us know that because of that screening, he did follow up with his doctor and was found, at age 61, to have an aggressive form of prostate cancer. He needed surgery and is presently cancer free. At our Wellness Fair on November 3, the couple visited our oncology table and thanked us for providing this service.
Outcomes:
Prevention & Screening Programs
Standard 4.2 – Screening Programs

Breast Cancer Screening

We followed NCCN, ACOG and ACR guidelines for determining women who needed a clinical breast exam and/or mammogram. Prevention education was provided to make women aware of the signs and symptoms of breast cancer as well as the importance of living a healthy lifestyle and risk factors associated with breast cancer. Our hope is to decrease the number of breast cancers diagnosed and to decrease the number of patients with late-stage disease.

May 10, 2018
Lodi Hospital, 8:30 a.m. – noon
• Second attempt for breast cancer screening at this rural location
• 3 women scheduled for screening
• 3 women received a clinical breast exam
• 3 screening mammograms completed
• No abnormal results
• Navigation: All women being followed by our Reflections Breast Center and Lodi Hospital

October 6, 2018
Paint the Park Pink, Lock3 Akron, 10 a.m. – noon
• New marketing event for Breast Cancer Survivorship
• Activities to celebrate survivorship and promote breast cancer awareness
• Clinical breast exams offered in our Health & Wellness Express bus
• 2 private exam rooms
• 5 clinical breast exams completed
• 3 scheduled for their mammograms with Akron General
• 2 women will receive their mammograms at their health facility
  - one from out of state
  - one from out of county
• All women received one-on-one instruction on breast health and screening
• All women received breast screening guidelines to take home
• Navigation: Women are being followed by our breast center
On Wednesday, June 6, Akron General hosted the 6th Annual Cancer Survivorship Celebration, which was a huge success! Nearly 140 attendees smiled, laughed and participated in Rick Smith Jr.’s magic show and an art project from Akron General’s art therapist, Amber Smith. Attendees acknowledged appreciation for this special event and even one commented, “Never stop having this wonderful celebration.”

Special thanks to the boards and administrators of the Akron General Foundation, Croft Funds and The Stephen Comunale Cancer Foundation for their continued support of this celebration, as well as to the McDowell Cancer Institute. This event couldn’t have happened without the dedicated efforts of our volunteers and survivorship committee members.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR FEEDBACK ABOUT THIS REPORT OR OUR PROGRAM, PLEASE CALL US AT 330.344 HOPE (4673) OR VISIT AKRONGENERAL.ORG/CANCER.
2018 Types of Cancer
Total sites: 1,361

Data finalized as of July 17, 2019