

The Cancer Center at Little Company of Mary Hospital and Health Care Centers in Evergreen Park, Illinois

Healing the whole person: mind, body, and spirit

The Cancer Center at Little Company of Mary Hospital and Health Care Centers (LCM) in Evergreen Park, Illinois, has a simple, eloquent aim: pursuing pain-free healthcare.

While acknowledging that the diagnosis and treatment of cancer will inevitably involve pain—the program is dedicated to providing care that minimizes this pain—whether its source is physical, spiritual, or emotional. To this end, The Cancer Center offers state-of-the-art technology and treatment in a patient-centered environment designed to promote ease of access to care.

Serving southwestern Chicago and its surrounding suburbs for more

than 75 years, LCM is a non-profit, Catholic community hospital. The cancer program, which has held ACoS certification since 1988, took an important step in 2000, with the addition of a 33,000-square-foot new Cancer Center facility to centralize outpatient services in one location. The Cancer Center adjoins the main LCM hospital building in Evergreen Park. Recognizing that fatigue is one of the primary side effects of cancer treatment, the new center was designed to streamline patients' walking distance to

the range of services needed to diagnose and treat cancer.

Comprehensive cancer treatment is offered at the facility by board-certified radiation and medical oncologists. Through an affiliation with the medical oncology group of

Vital Statistics

- Staffed hospital beds: 318
- Designated inpatient cancer unit beds: 24
- Number of new analytic cases in 2005: 700

Selected Patient Support Services

- American Cancer Society's *Look Good...Feel Better* program
- Y-Me Breast Cancer Support Group
- Integrative Therapy Services
- Nutrition Services
- Pastoral Care
- Home Care and Hospice
- Home Health Equipment Delivery Service
- Palliative Care
- Cancer Resource Library with ACS designation



Radiation oncologist Paul Song, MD, confers with radiation oncology nurse Faith Mavity, RN, BSN.



The infusion center features eight sunlit semi-private treatment bays as well as three private chemotherapy treatment bedrooms.

the University of Chicago Hospitals, The Cancer Center offers three half-day disease-site-specific clinics each week for lung, breast, and colorectal cancers and hematologic malignancies. Patients can receive second opinions, access national clinical trials, and schedule genetic counseling.

Centralized Services

On The Cancer Center's main level is the Cancer Resource Library. The inviting space is staffed by volunteers—many of whom are retired nurses—and offers an array of materials including books, brochures, computer access, and more. The Resource Center also features American Cancer Society (ACS) materials and services including access to an ACS social worker to complement The Cancer Center's social workers. The Library is open to the community Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

All cancer patients have access to Patient Advocate Ellie Ryan, RN, BSN, who is a full-time staff member dedicated to helping ease patients through the cancer care process.

The program's Comprehensive Breast Health Center is also located on the main floor. The Comprehensive Breast Health Center offers women multidisciplinary breast health care in one convenient location. Medical Director Olga Ivanov, MD, is the area's only fellowship-trained female breast surgeon. Working together, the Breast Health Team, which includes surgeons, radiation oncologists, medical oncologists, pathologists, radiologists, nurses, and genetic counselors, provides a multidisciplinary approach to diagnosing and treating breast cancer. To further streamline the care process, the Comprehensive Breast Health Center offers valet parking and convenient appointment times including evenings and weekend hours.

The Cancer Center's commitment to holistic care is demonstrated through its extensive Integrative Therapy Services, which provide complementary care focused on

meeting patients' physical, spiritual, and emotional needs. Integrative Therapy Services are coordinated by Linda Courts, RN, MSN, and include such offerings as acupuncture, yoga, Healing Touch, hypnosis, aromatherapy, and art therapy. Patients currently undergoing cancer treatment have access to free spa services. Faye's Light, a spa program specially designed for cancer patients,



The Cancer Resource Library has received an ACS designation as a patient resource center.

hosts free massage, manicures, pedicures, facials, and Reiki sessions at The Cancer Center twice a month by appointment. All spa services are performed by licensed or certified volunteers.

The cancer program also offers a range of ongoing support activities including patient support groups, a Y-Me breast cancer support group, Kid Support, and more.

Interventional Radiology and Advanced Radiation Therapy

LCM employs two board-certified interventional radiologists, who work with a highly trained staff to offer a full spectrum of minimally invasive oncologic procedures with a goal of reducing pain, side effects, and recovery time. Working with a multidisciplinary team approach, the interventional radiology staff provides care for patients with various types of malignancies. Advanced ultrasound and CT fluoroscopy equipment are used for minimally invasive procedures including targeted chemoembolization of tumors and localized tumor destruction of kidney, liver, lung, and bone tumors using cryoablation and radiofrequency ablation.

Radiation oncology services and nuclear medicine are located on The Cancer Center's lower level. With two linear accelerators, the program

offers state-of-the-art radiotherapy treatment options including external beam radiation therapy, low-dose and high-dose rate (HDR) brachytherapy, seed implants for prostate cancer, intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT), MammoSite, and HDR brachytherapy for prostate—one of the few locations in Illinois currently offering this treatment option.

Since 2005, LCM also has offered the option of surgery for prostate cancer with the da Vinci System surgical robot.

The Center's Prostate Cancer Management Program is a collaborative effort of the Urology and Radiation Oncology Departments. The program features an educational webpage (www.pursuingpainfreecancer.org) that includes a health-risk assessment. The program also offers reduced-fee prostate screening.

Infusion Services

Located on the first floor, the Infusion Center features three private chemotherapy treatment bedrooms and eight semi-private treatment bays enhanced with natural lighting. All of the Infusion Center nursing staff are ONS chemotherapy providers, and more than 60 percent are OCN certified. Through the program's affiliation with the University of Chicago, patients have access to clinical trials.

Community Connections

LCM has served its community for nearly eight decades. In turn, the surrounding community is taking an active role in supporting LCM's Cancer Center through the Beverly Breast Cancer Walk. Held each year on Mother's Day, the Beverly Breast Cancer Walk boasted more than 7,000 walkers in 2006 and raised \$500,000 for The Cancer Center and Comprehensive Breast Health Center. This year, thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Walk, The Cancer Center will purchase new digital mammography equipment.

The Cancer Center gives back to its community through numerous outreach and educational programs such as Picnic in the Park; free weekly educational programs; nutritional and emotional support programs; and screening programs. ☐