

The Cancer Program at Good Samaritan Hospital in Vincennes, Indiana

Comprehensive, multidisciplinary, patient-focused care for the community

For Good Samaritan Hospital in Vincennes, Indiana, 2008 marked not only this community hospital's centennial year, but also the opening of its new 25,000-square-foot Cancer Pavilion. Adjoining the main hospital building, the two-story facility centralizes all outpatient oncology services, enhancing the Cancer Program's holistic, patient-focused approach to care. The drive behind construction of the new Cancer Pavilion was to make the treatment process as seamless as possible for patients and their families. At the new facility, all the Cancer Program's outpatient oncology services are provided in one location. Patients can come in, register one time, and access the care they need.

The Good Samaritan Hospital (GSH) Cancer Program serves Knox

County and surrounding counties both in southwestern Indiana and in southeastern Illinois. The GSH Cancer Program has been approved as a Community Hospital Cancer Program by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer since 1979, and in 2007, earned approval with Commendations in 7 of 9 Standards. In 2007, the program saw 524 new cancer cases with the leading cancer sites being prostate, lung, breast, and colon/rectum.

Building on Success

Planning for the new Cancer Pavilion began nearly three years ago. Initially, updates were made to the radiation oncology program which acquired a second linear accelerator in 2006. The program began offering intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) on its new Varian 23iX linear accelerator with a multileaf collimator (MLC) in 2007. Sites treated to date include:

prostate, head and neck, esophagus, bladder, and specific sites in the lung. Among the radiation oncology diagnostic and treatment modalities offered are:

- 3D conformal planning
- CT simulation utilizing a 64-slice CT scanner
- Low-dose-rate prostate implants and low-dose-rate gynecological implants
- Breast ultrasound
- Helical/spiral CT
- Interventional radiology
- Prostate scanning
- Sentinel node biopsy
- MRI
- PET
- Digital mammography
- Breast MRI
- Virtual colonoscopy.

In designing the new Cancer Pavilion, the hospital pursued a cost-effective solution by essentially building the

Vital Statistics

- Total hospital bed size: 232
- Dedicated inpatient cancer unit beds: 22
- Dedicated outpatient infusion chairs: 12
- Number of new analytic cases seen in 2007: 414

Selected Support Services

- Patient support groups including Look Good...Feel Better, Man to Man, and Reach to Recovery, Wabash Wellness
- Patient Navigation services
- Social Work services
- Nutrition services
- Boutique offering free wigs, scarves, hats, etc.
- Resource Center with both Cancer Help educational software and Internet access
- Rehabilitation services
- Pastoral Care



Outpatient Infusion Center

new facility to incorporate the already enhanced radiation oncology area. The two-story Cancer Pavilion features a new private entrance, which is accessible for drive up and drop off, and also offers nearby valet parking. Patients enter into a spacious main waiting area which has a shared reception area for both radiation oncology—on the left side through a set of double doors—and the infusion center—to the right. Medical oncology offices and additional shell space for future growth are located on the second floor.

On the first floor, the new 12-chair infusion center features an open floor plan and natural lighting provided by a wall of windows that look out onto a lushly planted viewing garden. Each of the 12 infusion suites has space for a visitor, allowing family or friends to be with patients while they are receiving treatment. The infusion area also includes two private rooms with beds, one assessment room, and one exam room.

Resources for Patients and Families

Also located on the Cancer Pavilion's first floor are such program amenities as the Resource Center and Boutique. Open to patients and families from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, the Resource Center is furnished with comfortable seating and lighting. A wall-length water feature provides the area with a soothing ambience. Here, patients and family members can access a variety of informational materials as well as computers with Internet access. The GSH Cancer Program partners with the American Cancer Society (ACS) and the hospital volunteer organization to ensure that the Resource Center and Boutique (pictured above) are continuously staffed. An outpouring of community support, in addition to the presence of an ACS Wig Bank, help to keep the Boutique well supplied with wigs, scarves, and hats available to patients free of charge.

The Cancer Program offers a range of support services including pastoral

care, dietary, and social services—all provided to patients in the Cancer Pavilion. In January 2009, the program will be adding free massage therapy services by partnering with Vincennes University and serving as a clinical site for the school's massage therapy studies.

With the new Cancer Pavilion, the Cancer Program at GSH has reached its goal of bringing outpatient oncology services under one roof, further enhancing its patient-focused care. But according to Joann Zeller,



Boutique and Resource Center

MBA, RTT, CTR, Director of Oncology Services, what sets this program apart goes beyond the new bricks-and-mortar facility. "Everything begins and ends with your staff and their technical prowess as well as their compassion for their patients," she said. "Our staff is outstanding. Many staff members have been with us for over 15 years, and we are 100 percent oncology nurse certified in our outpatient infusion center."

State-of-the-Art Breast Care Center

A good example of how staff makes a difference at GSH is the patient navigation services provided at the Breast Care Center. Opened in 2006, the Breast Care Center is located directly across the viewing garden (an interior courtyard) from the new Cancer Pavilion. The Breast Care Center offers state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment options including digital mammography, stereotactic breast biopsy, ultrasound biopsy, sentinel node biopsy, and breast MRI. All newly diagnosed breast cancer patients are discussed in the program's multidisciplinary cancer conferences in which a team of surgery, medical oncology, radiation oncology, and staff develop a care

plan. "The Breast Care Center prides itself on seeing patients with suspicious findings within 48–72 hours. This is based on the belief of the multidisciplinary team that patients experience anxiety when presented with abnormal results and also to expedite their individualized plan of care," said Kurt Maddock, MD, Medical Director of the Breast Care Center.

The Breast Care Center is certified as a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology.

Since 2006, the program has offered breast health patient navigation services, beginning with one FTE certified breast health nurse navigator and adding a second RN navigator in 2007. These nurse navigators work with anyone who has a positive reading on a mammogram, staying with the patients throughout their treatment journey. With grants from the Komen for the Cure

and the Indiana Breast Cancer Awareness Trust, the program is able to offer free digital screening mammograms to residents of the counties surrounding the hospital. The program's breast health navigators and additional staff also conduct outreach education on breast health to nearby communities.

Building on the success of the Breast Health Patient Navigation program, the Cancer Center plans to expand patient navigation services in 2008 to include other cancer types.

Helping Patients Access Care

In June 2008 the GSH Cancer Program initiated a patient assistance program aimed at helping eligible patients who have financial need to complete the paperwork to help access appropriate patient assistance and drug replacement programs.

The Cancer Program participates in research as a partner with a local clinical trials program. The Cancer Program has also applied to the Hoosier Oncology Group seeking designation as an Institutional Clinical Trials Site. In 2006 the Cancer Program enrolled 11 percent of patients to clinical trials.

The new Cancer Pavilion at GSH brings together dedicated staff in an environment designed to enhance the patient experience of holistic, state-of-the-art care. ☐