

The Cancer Center at Cookeville Regional Medical Center

Comprehensive, state-of-the-art care with a personal touch

On January 5, 2009, Cookeville Regional Medical Center (CRMC) in Cookeville, Tennessee, celebrated the opening of its new 33,000-square-foot outpatient Cancer Center. The new facility brings all of this ACoS-approved cancer program's outpatient services together in one convenient location, all on one floor. The Cancer Center serves a 14-county area spanning middle Tennessee and southern Kentucky. In 2007 the Cancer Center saw 670 new analytic cases.

The new Cancer Center has ample dedicated parking and a private entrance. Visitors enter into a spacious open lobby that features Internet access. From the reception desk, patients are directed to the appropriate area of the Cancer Center.

Medical Oncology

The centrally located clinic area features 14 exam rooms that are divided between medical oncology and radiation oncology. In this area, patients are seen by their physicians. Close proximity fosters interaction between radiation oncology and medical oncology providers enhancing a multidisciplinary approach to patient care. The Cancer Center uses the IMPAC electronic medical records (EMR) system and went live with computerized physician order entry (CPOE) in 2008.

The new chemotherapy infusion area is situated adjacent to the central nurses' station. Designed with special attention to details that support patient- and family-centered healing environments—such as soothing colors and large windows—the infusion suite was carefully planned to ensure optimum patient comfort during treatment. The treatment area overlooks a beautiful Healing Garden, created by a team of Putnam County Master Gardeners. The garden fea-



Healing Garden



TomoTherapy®

Vital Statistics

- Total hospital bed size: 227
- Dedicated inpatient cancer unit beds: 10
- Number of new analytic cases per year: 670

Selected Patient Support Services

- Nutrition services
- Breast Patient Navigator
- Social Work services
- Breast Cancer Support Group and Circle of Hope Support Group
- Cancer Care Fund

tures a striking mural and a “Tree of Life” sculpture. Pavers used in the garden were designed by community members and hospital staff.

Patients can choose to receive chemotherapy in one of the two private infusion suites or in the 22-chair communal infusion area. The comfortable infusion recliners

The Cancer Care Fund was established to help patients with expenses not covered by insurance...

have private TVs, and patients receiving treatment are provided with cozy blankets and lunches with the option of ordering food from the hospital’s “room service” menu. By pulling a curtain, patients can opt for a more secluded treatment space and read a book, listen to headphones, or sleep.

A dedicated oncology pharmacy is located adjacent to the central nurses’ station. The Cancer Center employs five OCN-certified oncology nurses, and all of the program’s nurses receive extensive chemotherapy training.

With the hospital’s new expansion, cancer care on the inpatient medical oncology floor now offers private rooms for all patients. Each floor has a family room and lounge with vending machines, a refrigerator, and microwave oven. Several seating alcoves are located on the unit so that family members have a quiet place to sit outside the patient’s room.

Radiation Oncology

These services are located on the opposite side of the clinic area. The new Cancer Center features three vaults, and uses the Elekta Syn-ergy platform linear accelerator. In

January 2009 the program initiated treatment with the TomoTherapy® Hi-Art System, providing CT-image-guided intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT), becoming only the second provider in the state to offer this cutting-edge technology. IMRT is offered for prostate, head and neck, brain, lung, and certain intra-abdominal cancers. The new radiation therapy facility includes PET/CT and a large bore CT simulator. CRMC recently acquired the DaVinci System® surgical robot and began offering this treatment modality for prostate cancer in 2008.

The Cancer Center is affiliated with the Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG) through the University of Tennessee and has an active clinical trials program, typically accruing 12 percent of patients to clinical trials each year.

Expanded Support Services

As part of the Cancer Center’s expansion, space was created for several important supportive care services for patients and caregivers. The new Survivor’s Boutique is conveniently accessed from the main lobby. Previously patients had to go to several providers in the community to find products they might need during cancer treatment such as breast prostheses, mastectomy forms, lymphedema sleeves, and nutritional supplements. The Survivor’s Boutique, open Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 4:30 pm, now offers all of these items for purchase in one convenient site. The boutique employs a specialized breast fitter, and offers such products as clothing designed to wick away moisture, scarves, and wigs.

Another vital support service is the Cancer Center’s Patient Library/Media Center located in the main lobby area. The Library/Media Center offers a wealth of informational material as well as two computers with Internet access for patient and family use.

The Cancer Center’s full-time dedicated social worker facilitates a breast cancer support group and the Circle of Hope support group, open to cancer patients and caregivers. The program is also fortunate to have a full-time oncology registered dietitian who manages the nutrition-related issues involved in cancer care and coordinates the nutritional

supplements provided by a grant from the hospital’s auxiliary. For cancer survivors, the outpatient physical therapy program facilitates a new low-impact exercise program called “Healing in Motion.”

CRMC supports cancer patients and their families in another important way—through the Cancer Care Fund, a 501(c) fund managed by The Foundation at Cookeville Regional Medical Center. The Cancer Care Fund was established to help patients with expenses not covered by insurance such as utility bills, gas expenses for travel to treatment, groceries, medicines and medical supplies, and even with house payments. The Cancer Center’s social worker identifies those who would benefit from the fund, and then petitions the Cancer Care Fund on the patient’s behalf. All of the funds raised for the Cancer Care Fund go directly to patients served by the program.

Cookeville Regional Medical Center is committed to serving the community with affordable health screenings, information, and education. In 2007 CRMC provided more than 2,600 cancer and general health screenings at health fairs and community events. The Cancer Center sees a significant number of underinsured and uninsured patients, and in 2008 grant funding was obtained to provide free mammograms for eligible patients. In 2007 Cookeville Regional Medical Center staff showed its support for the community by raising more than \$11,000 for the Relay for Life.

What Lies Ahead?

The Cancer Center is committed to the goal of streamlining the patient’s journey across the continuum of care from screening and diagnosis through treatment and beyond. In 2007 the Cancer Center piloted breast patient navigation services and has now added one FTE RN breast patient navigator to its services. This year, The Cancer Center was selected to participate in ACCC’s *Patient Navigation: A Call to Action* project. As part of this pilot project, the Cancer Center will receive a one-day training onsite from expert faculty taking one step further toward a programmatic goal of expanding patient navigation services across the cancer service line. ☐