

spotlight

Olathe Health Cancer Center Olathe, Kansas



Serving Johnson, Franklin, Linn, and Miami counties, Olathe Health Cancer Center occupies a brand-new 25,000-square-foot building at Olathe Medical Park in Olathe, Kan. The cancer center formed through the purchasing and consolidation of two private programs: a medical oncology practice in 2014 and a radiation oncology practice in 2015. At that time, cancer care services were located on different floors of different buildings on the Olathe Medical Park campus. The physicians within those practices came together and decided that they needed to consolidate their services and create a one-stop shop in one building.

Together with the Olathe Health leadership team, physicians, nurses, administrative staff, and patients worked on their vision for the cancer center. One of the driving factors in the creation of the building was patient

convenience, and an important part of this vision was to have all services on one floor, allowing for easier patient access and workflow. The center opened its doors to radiation patients on February 5, 2018, and to medical oncology patients 23 days later.

A One-Stop Shop

True to its vision, the new Olathe Health Cancer Center is a comprehensive destination for cancer patients. The center is staffed by two medical oncologists and a medical oncology physician assistant; two radiation oncologists; a physicist; three patient navigators; eight nurses; a part-time dedicated oncology social worker; and two dedicated financial counselors, one each for medical oncology and radiation oncology. Within the center sits a 19-chair infusion center, an on-site laboratory, and a dedicated oncology pharmacy staffed by an oncology

pharmacist and two pharmacy technicians. The pharmacy is up to the specifications of USP-800 compliance and will be officially compliant soon. The center is accredited by both the Commission on Cancer and the National Accreditation Program for Breast Cancers.

The main conference room serves as the home for the cancer center's three tumor boards—breast, thoracic, and general oncology. When those aren't running, the conference room also serves as the home for Look Good, Feel Better courses and community outreach events. Also on site are a number of supportive services, including an appearance center for patients with comfort and cosmetic needs and a cancer rehab program with a specialization in lymphedema and cancer fatigue management. The center's radiation suite has a TrueBeam linear accelerator and a Big Bore computed tomography scanner. Patients who require inpatient care are referred a short distance to Olathe Medical Center's inpatient units. Cancer center physicians also participate in inpatient rounds at the hospital, bridging the gap between inpatient and outpatient care.

Community Cancer Care


Olathe Health is a two-hospital system that encompasses Olathe Medical Center and the more rural Miami County Medical Center. The bulk of the cancer center's referrals come from those two organizations, including higher complexity patients from Miami County. Olathe Health Cancer Center also participates in significant community



outreach efforts through health fairs, marketing campaigns, and social media.

Olathe Health Cancer Center has a network of community providers to supplement its on-site cancer care. The center has a strong alliance with local surgical specialists, as well as a pulmonary specialist and a thoracic surgeon. Patients who require transportation to and from appointments can receive aid through the cancer center's partnership with the American Cancer Society. For complementary and alternative medicines, the cancer center provides referrals to community providers; they are looking to implement on-site complementary and alternative medicine programs in the near future.

For clinical trials, Olathe Health works with Midwest Cancer Alliance, the outreach network of the National Cancer Institute-designated University of Kansas Cancer Center. Twenty-three trials are currently available for open enrollment in both medical and radiation oncology, and the enrollment rate for patients is around 5 percent. Olathe Medical Center's imaging pavilion can provide additional imaging for high-complexity patients, and the cancer center also conducts low-dose lung screening.

The CEO of Olathe Health, Frank Devocelle, who is retiring this year after 47 years with Olathe Health, envisioned the hospital's campus to be a comprehensive place for health and well-being. The establishment of a YMCA on campus grounds provides a unique partnership—a LIVESTRONG program hosted there offers a strong survivorship program for cancer patients from Olathe Health Cancer Center. A hospice house also resides on the campus grounds, and a community college down the block offers the majority of certified nursing assistant and nursing classes. 

Select Support Services

- Appearance Center
- Look Good, Feel Better
- Fatigue management
- Social work

Number of new analytic cases seen in 2018: 599

