



Hubert H. Humphrey Cancer Center Specialized Programs for Lung Cancer Patients

To cite this article: (2000) Hubert H. Humphrey Cancer Center, *Oncology Issues*, 15:4, 8-9, DOI: 10.1080/10463356.2000.11905139

To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10463356.2000.11905139>



Published online: 17 Oct 2017.



Submit your article to this journal [↗](#)



Article views: 1



View related articles [↗](#)

Hubert H. Humphrey Cancer Center

Specialized Programs for Lung Cancer Patients

For more than 40 years, North Memorial Medical Center has provided cancer care throughout Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Today, North Memorial's Hubert H. Humphrey Cancer Center in Robbinsdale, Minn., offers patients and their families a comprehensive program of cancer care—from screening and early detection to diagnosis, treatment, research, and support services.

"At the cancer center, we strive to develop programs that meet the needs of the patient, family members, and other caregivers," said Deborah Jorgensen, M.H.A., M.S., R.N., director of oncology services. To that end, the Chest Cancer Program was initiated in 1998 to offer a comprehensive approach for taking care of lung cancer patients as well as to provide smoking cessation and prevention education.

The center enhanced its coordinated approach to lung cancer management due, in part, to its hiring of a clinical care coordinator specifically for patients with chest cancer. Linda McGeary, B.S.N., R.N., develops proactive strategies aimed at enhancing the care delivery process, optimizing the quality of life for patients, and maximizing continuity of care. Her responsibilities include providing patient education and support and coordinating care among emergency, inpatient, and outpatient settings.

"One of our goals is to make sure patients and their caregivers are informed health care consumers," McGeary said. She helps by providing education on issues such as the disease process, diagnostic tests, medical terminology, treatment options, clinical trials, and how to navigate the health care system. A key component of her

role, she points out, is helping patients understand what measures they can take to prevent or reduce the side effects associated with cancer therapies.

Assisting patients and their caregivers to cope with the day-to-day experiences of their illness is an important part of the process, according to McGeary. The staff provides patients with consistent follow-up between physician visits and helps ensure that appropriate resources such as social services, pastoral care, and financial assistance are available.

To further meet the needs of patients with lung cancer, a specialized support group was initiated in 1999. This support group offers a caring, safe environment for participants to receive ongoing psychosocial support as well as information and education about lung cancer and its treatment.

At weekly chest conferences, a multidisciplinary panel meets to discuss patient care plans and research protocols available for specific lung cancers.

A STRONG RESEARCH PRESENCE

The Hubert H. Humphrey Cancer Center is active in clinical research both through the Metropolitan Community Cancer Oncology Program (MCCOP) and through North Memorial's Research Center. "With breakthroughs in oncology occurring almost daily, staying apprised of the latest diagnostic and treatment techniques is essential to being able to provide optimum care for our patients," said Harold Londer, M.D., medical director of the cancer center.

Prevention of primary or secondary cancers is also supported with the implementation of cancer control studies, including smoking

cessation studies conducted in collaboration with researchers at the University of Minnesota's Division of Epidemiology and MCCOP, Jorgensen noted. Research has shown that many hospitalized smokers would like to quit smoking, and hospitalization provides an opportunity for study coordinators to assist these patients in breaking their addiction.

THE ART OF CARING

Jorgensen points out that at the Hubert H. Humphrey Cancer Center, cancer care is an art as well as a science. A wide variety of education and support programs ensure that the art of cancer care is being practiced every day.

Recently, the cancer center has begun integrating complementary therapies into the care provided to chemotherapy patients. Now, patients undergoing chemotherapy have the services of a part-time, certified music therapist to help them develop an anxiety-reduction plan. Ruthann Ritchie, R.M.T.-B.C., meets with patients to identify music preferences and situations where music may be beneficial. She then develops a tape for patients to use at opportune times. She evaluates the impact of the therapy and provides feedback to the patient and staff.

Additional complementary therapies available at the cancer center include massage therapy and a day-long retreat on how complementary therapies can enhance one's quality of life and help maintain a sense of well-being during cancer treatment.

Women In Nature (WIN), a wilderness expedition in northern Minnesota, helps women with cancer realize the strength they have within to overcome the impact of cancer in their lives. The trips

promote self-reliance, problem solving, and a sense of accomplishment in a beautiful and challenging outdoor setting.

Jeanne Harding, a 1993 and 1994 participant, remarked: "That trip challenged me so much—physically, mentally, and emotionally. But I did it! The experience changed my life."

PLANNING AHEAD

Staff at the cancer center plans to expand existing specialized programs and is working to develop new programs that will better meet the needs of cancer patients. In addition, the center will continue to focus on its involvement in research protocols and advanced

treatment techniques.

"Patients can count on the Hubert H. Humphrey Cancer Center to provide the best care available, while we work on eliminating cancer altogether," Londer said. ■

An ACoS-approved comprehensive community cancer program, the Hubert H. Humphrey Cancer Center features a medical oncology practice with three clinic sites providing chemotherapy and other treatments, a 53-bed inpatient unit, and radiation center.

For more information, contact the Hubert H. Humphrey Cancer Center at 763-520-5158, or visit their web site: hhhcancercenter.com.

VITAL STATISTICS

- Total hospital bed size: 518
- Cancer unit beds: 53

- Number of analytic cancer cases seen in 1998: 1,055
- Managed care penetration in the state: 30 percent

SELECTED PATIENT SUPPORT SERVICES

- A variety of support groups are offered, including ones for breast, prostate, brain, and lung cancers, as well as one for caregivers.
- The web site provides detailed information about specific cancers and cancer center programs and services. There is an e-mail connection to cancer center professionals and links to other resources.

- The breast health resource center offers coordinated services for women with breast cancer.
- Specialized melanoma and clinical genetics programs and a cancer risk-screening clinic are offered in partnership with Abbott Northwestern Hospital.
- Complementary therapies include music and massage therapy and full-day wellness retreats.
- *Women In Nature* wilderness expeditions are offered.
- A variety of American Cancer Society programs are provided, including *I Can Cope* (which was conceived at North Memorial).



The certified music therapist at the Hubert H. Humphrey Cancer Center plays harp music for individual or groups of patients during chemotherapy treatments to relieve anxiety.