The NCI Community Cancer Centers Program - A Patient Navigator Aspect

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St Joseph’s/Candler Health System
Lewis Cancer & Research Pavilion
Patient Navigation Opportunity

- National Cancer Institute Community Cancer Centers Program Pilot - 07/01/07 – 06/30/2010
  - GI Patient Navigator Position
  - Role works closely with the outreach efforts to test access to care over the next couple years.
  - 100 Black Men of Savannah working closely with the LCRP to address colorectal cancer
Health System Mission and Values

- Rooted in God’s love, we treat illness and promote wellness for all people.

- Compassion
- Quality
- Integrity

- Courtesy
- Accountability
- Teamwork
The simplicity of our health system’s mission and values are translated into very intricate and often multi-faceted dimensions of our holistic community outreach efforts.

Removing Disparity through Access:

- St. Mary’s Community Center
- Wesley Community Center
- African-American Health Information & Resource Center
- Smart Senior African-American Health Initiative
- Angels of Mercy Volunteer Corps
- Camp Codiak
- Cardiovascular Council
- CareCall
- Community Health Forums & Health Fairs
- Mobile Mammography
- Medical Missions
- Georgia Infirmary
- Medbank
- Sports Medicine
- YMCA Health Connection
- St. Mary’s Health Center
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
- S.O.U.R.C.E.
- Southeast Georgia Cancer Alliance
- Patient Navigation
- Mercy Housing
- Removing Disparity through Access: Southeast Georgia Cancer Alliance
Cancer & Research Pavilion

Our cancer center is an all inclusive facility that can provide up to date and collaborative care for patients in a team approach.

All providers approach care with thought to the care of the patient’s mind, body and spirit.

Team Approach

- Physicians: Medical/Hematology Onc., Radiation Onc., Surgeons, Pulmonary, Internists, Radiologists & Pathologists
- Oncology Patient Navigators
- Community Outreach Coordinator
- Social Worker, Pastoral Care
- On-site American Cancer Society Navigator
- Outpatient Infusion Center
- CT/CXR department
- Palliative Care Clinic
- Access to external care: Wellness Center & Lymphedema Care
Oncology Patient Navigator

- Patient Navigator role is to coordinate appointments, make sure patients understand their treatment options, answer questions, and serve as a compassionate source of assistance for patients and their families during a difficult time.

- Goals include: Preventative education and screenings for breast, colon, lung, prostate & oral cancer, facilitate trust & effective communication between patient, Physicians and possibly research department to increase accrual in clinical trials, evaluate further needs of patients as they transition into the survivorship phase.

- *This position is continuously evolving as we develop our systems and add more services to our facility*
Nurse Navigators

Currently we have 3 Patient Navigators:
Breast Navigator Krista Aliffi
Lung & Palliative Care Trish Gordon
Colon/GI & Survivorship Dana Coleman

Community Outreach Coordinator:
Wanda Jones
Navigation Services TEAM

- Nurse Navigators work closely with patient resource navigators (social workers) and data resource navigators (registrars and data managers) as well as clinical trials research nurses
  - An approach the LCRP is piloting through the NCI Community Cancer Centers Program Pilot (NCCCP)
  - Real time treatment planning, treatment summaries and survivorship care plans
My role as Navigator for Colon/GI Cancers

- This process is evolving based on physician and patient feedback.
- We have in place a GI Cancer Action Team Comprised of Surgeons, Hem/Onc. MDs, Radiation MDs, GI MDs and Primary Care Physicians
- Patients are identified through regular screenings performed at Free Health Fairs-targeted towards serving the disparity population or unfortunate ER visits; also, by phone call to the call care center
Throughput Process after Identification

Once patients are identified, we assist in navigating the patient through the process of healthcare by making the transition from diagnosis to treatment more timely and seamless.

We review all available resources to provide for disparities and identified needs as they continue the pathway to better health or quality of life. Sometimes above and beyond the expected!
Identify Abnormal Findings

Patient Navigator

PCP

GI/Specialist

Surgeon ▶️ Oncologist &/or Radiation Oncologist

Rotating List of PCP,
GI, Surgeon
Breast Cancer Navigation

PN = Patient Navigator

Patient Consults with Breast Surgeon

Ultrasound-guided Biopsy

24-48 hrs

Patient Diagnosis

Stereotactic Biopsy

Scheduled by Surgeon

PN = Patient Navigator

PN calls ordering physician

60% of Physicians who refer to Center have Profiles

PN Schedules Biopsy and Surgeon Appointments

Preference Profiles allow patients to move through system faster. Physicians state preference for specific surgeon or rotation. 90% rotation. Rotation Physicians must sign Participation Agreement

PN Calls Physician for Physician Preference Profile

PN checks for Physician Preference Profile

PN calls ordering physician

Plastic Surgeon

Medical Oncologist

Radiation Oncologist

MULTI-D CONSULTS in Private MD Offices if Not Previously Scheduled

Medical Radiation Plastic Oncologist Oncologist Surgeon

Treatment

Weekly Pre-surgical Team Interdisciplinary Conference

Patient Navigator Completed Computerized Multi-D Conf. Recommendation Form (treatment options, potential enrollment into clinical trials)

Medical Oncology Radiation Oncologist

Previously Diagnosed Patient / Second Opinion

Breast Surgeon tells Patient Results with PN at all appointments. Physician schedules Medical and Radiation Oncology appointments. PN provides Survivor Information Packet

PN Sets up Initial Appointments (MD Rotations); Coordinates Patient Records

PN = Patient Navigator

Physician takes over Patient’s Care & Approves Biopsy Order

Physician states preference for specific surgeon or rotation. 90% rotation. Rotation Physicians must sign Participation Agreement

PN Attends First Consults for all Patients whose Physicians have Preference Profiles
Patient Navigation Services

Lung Cancer Patient Pathway

- Primary Care Physician Makes Suspicious Finding
  - Radiologist Makes Suspicious Finding
  - Patient Self-Referral
  - Multi-D Tumor Board Post-tx Review
- Referred to Pulmonologist
  - Referred to Lung Patient Navigator
  - Multi-D Pre-Workup Conference
  - Standard Workup
- Patient Navigator Coordinates/Compiles Patient Info. Pre and Post Conference
  - Refer to RESEARCH for Trial participation screening
- Medical Oncology
- Radiation Oncology
- Surgery
- Multi-D Conference
- Definitive Diagnosis
  - PCP
- Rotation or Request
  - Referral to Multi-D: = 7 days
- Time from referral to definitive dx: 2 wks
  - Suspicious finding to Referral: 10 days
  - PCP Indicates Primary Care Physician Involvement/Communication (Invite to conference, share patient info, diagnosis, treatment)

NCI Definition

Abnormal Findings
Diagnosis
Palliation
Treatment
Survivorship
End of Life Care
Survivorship Care Planning

- Diagnosis and Staging
- Treatment with Intent to Cure
- Palliative Treatment
- Death
- Managed Chronic or Intermittent Disease
- Cancer-free Survival
- Treatment Failure
- Recurrence/Second Cancer

Survivorship: Post Treatment
Case Presentations

- Breast Navigation
- GI Navigation
In Summary

- Our goals are to reduce the disparity population by having access to better healthcare
- Reduce the number of stage III & IV breast, colon & lung cancer patients
- Offer access for prevention education and health screenings for early detection and diagnosis
- Continue with training to keep current with the every changing field of research and development
- Offer the best care and outcome to patients