

2021

Public Reporting of Outcomes

Cleveland Clinic Akron General McDowell Cancer Center



As an accredited Commission on Cancer (CoC) program, Cleveland Clinic Akron General McDowell Cancer Center provides the Public Reporting of Outcomes to show the results of activities completed by our cancer program as required by the American College of Surgeons (ACOS) CoC. Accreditation is granted to facilities that have demonstrated compliance with the CoC Eligibility Requirements and Standards. To maintain accreditation, cancer programs must undergo an on-site survey every three years. We were awarded our Three-Year Accreditation with Commendation in 2020, which is only awarded to a facility that exceeds standard requirements at the time of its triennial survey.

Our program’s Cancer Committee is responsible for monitoring, assessing and identifying changes that are needed to maintain compliance with CoC criteria.

2021 Cancer Committee

PHYSICIAN MEMBERS:

- Esther Rehmus, MD | Chairman
- Noaman Ali, MD | Associate Member
- Andrew Fenton, MD | Cancer Liaison Physician (CLP)
- Thomas Herbener, MD | Required Member
- Jayram Krishnan, MD | Associate Member
- Amanda Mendiola, MD | Associate Member
- Mary Murray, MD | Required Member
- Angela Powell, MD | Required Member
- Ashok Ramalingam, MD | Required Member
- Sonia Sandhu, MD | Quality Improvement Coordinator
- Anthony Visioni, MD | Alternate CLP
- Roberto Vargas, MD | Associate Member

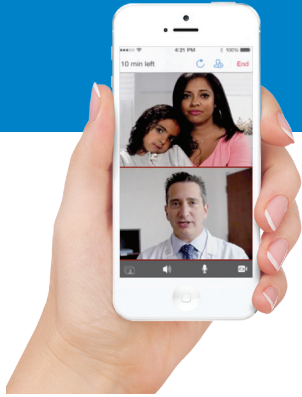
ADMINISTRATIVE MEMBERS:

- Justin Andras, Pharm | Associate Member
- Sarah Catchpoke, CTR | Alternate for Renee Santin
- Wendy Catchpole | Alternate Cancer Research Coordinator
- Julie Moran RN,BSN, MBA | Program Administrator
- Amy Cordova, MSN, APRN-CNP, OCN | Survivorship Program Coordinator
- Rebecca Daubner, LISW, OSW-C | Alternate Psychosocial Coordinator
- Alicia Ferrell, MS, RD, LD | Associate Member
- Kristen Glaspell | Associate Member
- Kristen Holmes | Associate Member
- Dena Hunt, LISW, LCDC III, OSW-C | Psychosocial Coordinator
- Julie Imani, MSN, RN, CNS, OCN | Oncology Nurse
- Deborah Liedtke MS, RN, OCN, BMT-CN | Associate Member
- Kathy Lukity, RN, BSN, CBCN | Breast Health Center
- Jessica Marquard, MS, LGC | Required Member
- Michael McNeal, RN, BSN | Cancer Research Coordinator
- Gillian Myers, MSN, RN, CNS, ACNS-BC, ACHPN, OCN | Palliative Care
- Londa Roberts | Associate Member
- Brenda Runion, PT, Med, DPT, CCCE | Associate Member
- Renee Santin, CTR | Cancer Registry Coordinator/ Cancer Conference Coordinator
- Claire Wilson, DPN, APN, RN | Associate Member
- Tiffany Williams, MPA – ACS Representative | Associate Member



2021 At-A-Glance
Data through October 2021

1,330
Virtual visits



870 SCREENING COLONOSCOPIES

21,666
Screening Mammograms

19,162
INFUSION
APPOINTMENTS

9,120
Radiation treatments



1,481 NEW
ANALYTIC
CASES
FOR 2020

76 Research
cases



\$75,799 Raised for Muffins
for Mammograms
through WQMX 94.5 FM Bosom Buddies
fundraiser

Outcomes: Art Therapy

Art Therapy Accomplishments in 2021

811

ART THERAPY VISITS

67 art therapy
kit options

The art therapy program continued to successfully overcome adversities through COVID-19. Last year, the program began utilizing art therapy tool kits as a method to provide therapeutic emotional support and creative outlets to patients and their caregivers during this difficult time. This year, the program continued offering the kits and participation has increased. The weekly kits are themed, include printed directions and a recorded video. They are mailed or available for pick up at the infusion centers.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

- Weekly “Art Therapy at Home” program that brought fun and enjoyment to patients using simple materials throughout their house.
- Weekly newsletter to patients, featuring art-related video resources on You Tube, a list of available art therapy kits, updates on the annual exhibit and inspirational quotes.
- Weekly “Virtual Walk” videos from the therapist to provide socialization to patients during COVID restrictions.
- Annual Exhibition of Patient Artwork is on display in the McDowell Cancer Center lobby, showcasing artwork from patients and caregivers that have participated in the art therapy program, through the funding from the Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation.
- “Healing Expressions” exhibition at the Summit County Courthouse, featuring 36 pieces of artwork through the funding of the Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation.

Outcomes: Art Therapy

Art Therapy Accomplishments in 2021

This collaborative art therapy project, “Depths of Belief,” is currently being worked on by 40 patients and caregivers.

This art piece is of a whale breaching out of the water and reflects the belief that things will get better. Choosing to believe this can be a struggle when going through something difficult, like a cancer diagnosis and treatment. Life may feel unbearable and you may wonder how you will make it through. However, after some time has passed and you look back, you realize how strong you actually are, even among the depths of life.

This project will continue into 2022 and will be permanently hung in the lobby at one of Cleveland Clinic Akron General’s locations.



Depths of Belief

Outcomes: Prevention & Screening Programs

Standard 8.2 Prevention Event

Harvest Nutrition Education Event

Belcher Community Room South | Wednesday, Sept. 15

According to the National Cancer Institute (2021), weight gain during adult life and obesity increases risk for postmenopausal breast cancer. The American Cancer Society states healthy body weight and proper nutrition may decrease the chance of developing breast cancer over the age of 65 (Rock, 2020).

The 2019 Community Healthy Needs Assessment (CHNA) found that the percent of obese individuals is above the national average in Summit County. In addition to this, the CHNA also reports the 65+ population is projected to grow much faster than any other age groups within the Akron area. Eight zip codes were identified as high need by Dignity Health Community Need Index: 44307, 44311, 44302, 44306, 44308, 44310, 44304 and 44320. Taking this into consideration, we partnered with the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) to focus on breast cancer prevention for individuals over the age of 65. The program focused on nutrition and maintaining a healthy diet to help prevent breast cancer, featuring a presentation on healthy eating, including: high fat versus lean proteins, fruit/vegetable consumption, high fiber foods and limiting sugary beverages.

The AMHA maintains community gardens at several of their building locations that are accessible to the tenants. Alicia Ferrell, MS, RD, LD, hosted the event and educated participants on how to prepare seasonal vegetables grown in their community gardens and turn them into healthy meals and side dishes. Samples, recipes and nutrition education material related to breast cancer prevention were provided at this event. A total of five people attended the presentation. According to the pre/post questionnaires, none of the participants had ever attended a presentation on nutrition and breast cancer prevention prior to our program. All the participants stated they had learned something new about nutrition and/or cancer prevention and plan to make changes to their diet.

Sources

PDQ® Screening and Prevention Editorial Board. PDQ Breast Cancer Prevention. Bethesda, MD: National Cancer Institute. Updated <06/18/2021>. Available at: <https://www.cancer.gov/types/breast/hp/breast-prevention-pdq>. Accessed <07/12/2021>. [PMID: 26389323]

Rock, C.L., Thomson, C., Gansler, T., Gapstur, S.M., McCullough, M.L., Patel, A.V., Andrews, K.S., Bandera, E.V., Spees, C.K., Robien, K., Hartman, S., Sullivan, K., Grant, B.L., Hamilton, K.K., Kushi, L.H., Caan, B.J., Kibbe, D., Black, J.D., Wiedt, T.L., McMahon, C., Sloan, K. and Doyle, C. (2020), American Cancer Society guideline for diet and physical activity for cancer prevention. CA A Cancer J Clin, 70: 245-271. <https://doi.org/10.3322/caac.21591>

Outcomes: Prevention & Screening Programs

Standard 8.3 Cancer Screening Event

Oncology Screening Events

Saturday, Aug. 7 | 7 a.m. – noon

Patients screened: 17

African American Male 5k was held at Buchtel CLC in Akron. Prostate screening-blood draws and blood pressure screenings were offered. Dr. Jayram Krishnan answered questions and several staff from oncology attended to support the event, including Meri Sistek, Barb Greve, PJ Hetkey, Emily Webber, Stephanie Gross and relative.

Wednesday, Oct. 20 | 9 a.m. – noon

Patients screened: 7

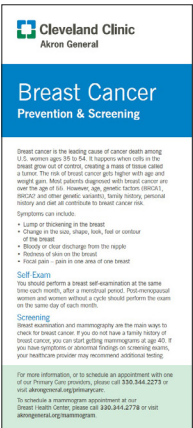
Cleveland Clinic Akron General spearheaded a partnership with OPEN M in Akron to provide breast health exams and mammograms to women. Dr. Plate and three student doctors performed exams while staff provided education and support, including Amy Cordova, Karen Echelberger, Tiffany Harvey, Lisa Pudoka, Julie Imani, Julie Moran and Dena Hunt.

The event has been expanded to offer services quarterly with intended increase to 15 participants, as well as continued collaboration with Dr. Plate, her team and oncology caregivers.

Supplemental Marketing & PR Efforts

While in-person cancer outreach efforts were still impacted for a majority of 2021, the team conducted virtual forms of prevention education through marketing and PR opportunities, including:

- Ran social media advertising campaigns to increase awareness of services and encourage prevention through mammography and colonoscopy screening appointments using high-performing creative.
- Developed consumer-friendly rack cards with colonoscopy and mammography screening information.



Outcomes: Prevention & Screening Programs

Standard 8.3 Cancer Screening Event

- Ran print advertorials in 11 local Akron newspapers highlighting the importance of screenings.
- Scheduled media interviews featuring cancer providers discussing the importance of colonoscopy and mammography screenings.
- Shared screening and prevention tips on Akron General's social media pages by way of short physician videos.
- Benefited from Cleveland Clinic's paid search efforts on colonoscopy and mammography by including Akron appointment information on landing pages.
- Distributed breast cancer and mammography information to 200+ event guests at the annual WQMX Bosom Buddies fundraising event.
- Shared return to screening messages in the My Good Health publication, which was mailed to 52,000 Akron-area households.
- Shared screening messages on digital screens throughout the hospital and through the messages on hold call waiting system.
- Shared screening messages in our internal e-newsletters to encourage employees to get mammograms and sent an email to medical staff regarding screening importance.

Skipped your mammogram due to COVID-19? Schedule one now.

The short answer from a diagnostic radiologist.

Q: You missed your regular mammogram in 2020 while quarantining due to COVID-19. How important is it to get a breast screening scheduled this year?

A: It is extremely important, and here's why. Regular screening mammograms are the best way to find breast cancer early. And when caught early enough, patients have that many more options for treatment and the best chance for a cure.

A mammogram uses X-rays to look for any signs of breast cancer before symptoms develop. Sometimes, mammograms will find a breast cancer months, or even years, before a patient notices any symptoms. It is not an overstatement to say that the results of a mammogram can be life-saving. Catching cancer early and beginning

treatment increases your chances of survival. Breast cancer stands as the world's most commonly diagnosed cancer, according to the World Health Organization. The disease claimed the lives of more than 685,000 women across the globe in 2020.

However, breast cancer survival rates have steadily increased in recent years largely due to earlier detection and treatment. Regular mammograms – particularly for women age 50 and older – helped drive that trend.

A recent study looked at how many patients did not have their mammograms during the pandemic. This study showed a nearly 50% drop in the rate of screening mammograms. This is concerning.

While a short-term delay may have little to


no effect on a patient's diagnosis and course of the disease, there's worry that longer delays may lead to a later-stage diagnosis that requires more intense treatment.

So when should you schedule your screening mammogram? ASAP!

I urge anyone who has postponed visiting their healthcare provider because of COVID-19 to get back on track. Make your appointment and encourage others to do the same.

To schedule your mammogram, visit [AkronGeneral.org/Mammogram](#) or call 330.344.5760.

— Diagnostic Radiologist Kimberly Morabito, MD



Don't delay. Cancer screenings save lives.

Even though many of us are still dealing with the realities of COVID-19, it's important to schedule preventive screenings, check-ups or medical appointments that may have been canceled or postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Just your, or our, lack of medical care is worrying about the virus.

"I've been seeing any of these symptoms or putting off seeing your doctor, don't delay," says Dr. Leininger. "It's important to continue to receive regular screenings, from mammograms and PAP smears to skin checks and colonoscopies."

Why? Because while some cancers grow slowly, others grow quickly. A delay in diagnosis can transform a cancer that is potentially curable into one that is not.

If you're experiencing any symptoms or have questions about cancer screenings, please reach out to your primary care provider.

Learn more about the steps we're taking to keep you safe at [ClevelandClinic.org/COVID19](#).



Sonia Sandhu, MD - The Importance of Preventative Care to Survive Cancer

Dr. Sandhu, MD, is a board-certified oncologist at Cleveland Clinic's Cancer Center. She is also a member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and the American Cancer Society (ACS).

Dr. Sandhu is a frequent speaker at cancer conferences and has been featured in several media outlets. She is also a member of the Cleveland Clinic's Cancer Center's advisory board.

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'I didn't want to face my illness': Akron woman's breast cancer could have had different outcome

Betty Lin-Fisher, Akron Beacon Journal

By Virginia Shaw

Published: 10/14/2021 10:00 AM EDT Updated: 10/14/2021 10:00 AM EDT



Virginia Shaw knows she's lucky, and her outcome could have been so different. The retired nurse from Akron knew she should have gotten a lump the fib in her left breast in December 2019 checked out.

But she tried to wait away – particularly because of her distrust of medical establishment, even though she had a cancer as a nurse. Thus the COVID-19 pandemic arrived, and Shaw said she stayed in the house.

She waited 14 months before seeing a doctor for her lump. By then, it had grown. She had it removed by Dr. Andrew Patten, executive medical director of Cleveland Clinic Akron General's McDowell Cancer Center and the Breast Health Center.

"All things considered, she was very fortunate," said Patten. "The first thing she said to me when she saw me was 'Doc, I waited too long.'"

1 in 3 will get cancer.

But early detection can lead to better outcomes.

Talk to your doctor about beginning or resuming regular cancer screenings, including mammograms and colonoscopies.



To schedule a mammogram: 330.344.2778 | To schedule a colonoscopy: 330.344.2686

Outcomes: Palliative Care Services

Standard 4.5

AT CLEVELAND CLINIC AKRON GENERAL, OUR SERVICES FOR PALLIATIVE CARE INCLUDE BOTH INPATIENT AND OUTPATIENT CONSULTATIONS. OUR OUTPATIENT PALLIATIVE CARE CLINIC CARES FOR OUR ONCOLOGY PATIENTS.

Palliative care is provided by a team of doctors, practitioners, social workers, dietician and other specialty providers. Palliative care is appropriate at any age and any stage in a serious illness. It can be helpful to provide improved symptom management for our cancer patients. Some of the symptoms most commonly managed include depression, anxiety, pain, nausea, anorexia and more.

Palliative care can also help with communication between the providers and specialists with family involvement if requested. It can also be given together with curative treatments such as chemotherapy, radiation and surgery, or it can be given alone if an individual does not want the traditional treatment approach.

While Akron General has always had an inpatient palliative care service, we started an outpatient palliative care services in March 2021. To date, we've cared for 711 outpatient palliative care patients, and look forward to serving even more in 2022.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PROGRAM, OR TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, CALL 330.344.6505.



Palliative Medicine Clinic

Symptom management
for cancer patients

Physician Office Building | Health & Wellness Center, Green
330.344.6505 | akrongeneral.org/palliativecare

Outcomes: Survivorship

Standard 4.9

THE SURVIVORSHIP PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT TEAM IDENTIFIED THREE SERVICES FOR 2021 EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT. THIS INCLUDED:

- Ongoing delivery of survivorship care plans / oncology treatment summaries. Breast cancer patients were the focus for growth related to in-person visits. To date, more than 160 survivorship visits have been provided to breast and prostate cancer patients. Survivorship referrals have increased throughout the course of the year in conjunction with increased physician support for the survivorship program. Post-treatment survivorship (surveillance) appointments have increased significantly within the breast center.
- Nutrition consultations/evaluations continued pre-treatment and were included in post-treatment referrals within survivorship visits. Social work referrals have been routinely offered in survivorship visits to identify any post-treatment patient needs.
- Cardio-Oncology services remains a focus for oncology patients from both prevention and problem focused perspectives. An ongoing partnership between the oncology and cardiology service teams have been instrumental in moving this goal forward. Dedicated echocardiogram slots for oncology patients have been planned for prevention of treatment delays.

The survivorship program was also supported by marketing efforts, which were instrumental in promoting the breast cancer specific survivorship program. Marketing created a branded flyer and rack card to promote the coordinator and help educate patients on available survivorship support services.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR FEEDBACK ABOUT THIS REPORT
OR OUR PROGRAM, PLEASE CALL US AT 330.344 HOPE (4673)
OR VISIT AKRONGENERAL.ORG/CANCER.**

2020 Types of Cancer

Total sites: 1,492

