

press release

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Sharon Hospital's Cancer Program Receives Accreditation with Commendation from the American College of Surgeons

Sharon, CT — Sharon Hospital's Cancer Program receives accreditation by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons. Once again, the Commission on Cancer (CoC) of the American College of Surgeons (ACoS) has granted Three Year Accreditation with Commendation to the Cancer Program at Sharon Hospital.

A facility receives a Three-Year Accreditation with Commendation following an on-site evaluation by a physician surveyor during which the facility demonstrates a commendation level of compliance with one or more standards that represent the full scope of the cancer program (cancer committee leadership, cancer data management, clinical services, research, community outreach, and quality improvement). In addition a facility receives a compliance rating for all other standards.

The Cancer Care Program at Sharon Hospital features board certified physicians, highly trained nurses and a comprehensive team. Sharon Hospital's compassionate, multidisciplinary approach to cancer care helps patients and their families from diagnosis through their cancer journey. Sharon Hospital's Cancer Care Services include all aspects of cancer care on-site with the exception of Radiation Oncology.

Cancer Care Services at Sharon Hospital include:

- > Board Certified Oncologists
- > Board Certified Diagnostic Pathology & Cytopathology Specialists
- > Breast Cancer Support Network
- > Cancer Committee
- > Cancer Support Group
- > Certified Cancer Registrar
- > Chemotherapy (inpatient/outpatient)
- > Community Education & Screenings (cancer prevention, early detection & treatment)
- > State-of-the-art Diagnostic & Interventional Radiology Services (CT Scan, Digital Mammography, Nuclear Medicine, MRI, Breast MRI & Biopsy, Ultrasound & Biopsy, Stereotactic Breast Biopsy)
- > Discharge Continuum Care Services
- > Financial Counselors | 860.364.4275
- > Full Laboratory Services
- > Gastroenterology
- > Gynecology
- > Health & Wellness Concierge Service | 860.364.4493
- > Hospice Services | 860.364.1796
- > Licensed Social Workers
- > Medical Oncology
- > Nutritional Counseling | 860.364.4170
- > Oncology Certified Nurses
- > Otolaryngology | Head & Neck Surgery
- > Physical Therapy | 860.364.4065
- > Radiation Oncology services are available by referral to other facilities
- > Specialized Treatment of Breast & Colorectal Surgery
- > Speech & Swallowing Therapy
- > Urology
- > Cancer Support Group: The Cancer Support Group meets weekly on Wednesdays from 10:30a-12noon in the 2 North Waiting Room at Sharon Hospital. For more information about this FREE program, please call 860.364.4493 or 877.364.4202.

Established in 1922 by the American College of Surgeons, the CoC is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving survival rates and quality of life for cancer patients through standard-setting, prevention, research, education, and the monitoring of comprehensive, quality care. Its membership includes Fellows of the American College of Surgeons and 42 national organizations that reflect the full spectrum of cancer care.

The core functions of the CoC include setting standards for quality, multidisciplinary cancer patient care, surveying facilities to evaluate compliance with the 36 CoC standards; collecting standardized and quality data from accredited facilities; and using the data to develop effective educational interventions to improve cancer care outcomes at the national, state and local level.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that more than 1.4 million cases of cancer will be diagnosed this year. There are currently more than 1,400 CoC-accredited cancer programs in the US and Puerto Rico, representing close to 25 percent of all hospitals. This 25 percent of hospitals diagnose and/or treat 80 percent of newly diagnosed cancer patients each year. In addition, a national network of more than 1,600 volunteer Cancer Liaison Physicians provides leadership and support for the CoC Accreditation Program and other CoC activities at these local facilities.

The Accreditation Program, a component of the CoC, sets quality-of-care standards for cancer programs and reviews the programs to ensure they conform to those standards. Accreditation by the CoC is given only to those facilities that have voluntarily committed to providing the highest level of quality cancer care and that undergo a rigorous evaluation process and review of their performance. To maintain accreditation, facilities with CoC-accredited cancer programs must undergo an on-site review every three years.

Receiving care at a CoC-accredited cancer program ensures that a patient will have access to:

- > Comprehensive care, including a range of state-of-the art services and equipment
- > A multispecialty, team approach to coordinate the best treatment options
- > Information about ongoing clinical trials and new treatment options
- > Access to cancer-related information, education, and support

- > A cancer registry that collects data on type and stage of cancers and treatment results and offers lifelong patient follow-up
- > Ongoing monitoring and improvement of care, and most importantly,
- > Quality care close to home.

Cancer patient data are reported by each CoC-accredited cancer program to the CoC's National Cancer Data Base (NCDB), a joint CoC/American Cancer Society program.

The NCDB currently contains patient demographics, tumor characteristics, and treatment and out-comes information for more than 18 million cancer patients diagnosed and treated at hospital cancer programs in the US between 1985 and 2004. These data account for approximately two-thirds of newly diagnosed cancer cases in the US each year.

NCDB data is regularly used to monitor and improve the quality of patient care delivered in CoC-accredited cancer programs. The CoC requires programs to implement quality improvement initiatives that promote the delivery of quality, multidisciplinary cancer care and lead to ongoing educational interventions with local providers in the CoC-accredited cancer programs.

Through an exclusive partnership with the American Cancer Society, the CoC provides the public with information on the resources, services, and cancer treatment experience for each CoC-accredited cancer program. This information is shared with the public on the American Cancer Society's Web site at www.cancer.org and through the American Cancer Society's National Cancer Information Center at 1-800-ACS-2345.

For more information about the Commission on Cancer, visit our Web site at www.facs.org/cancer/index.html.

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