

Community Oncology: Where you are treated makes a difference

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Today's Advocacy Chat Highlights

- Overview of Community Oncology Alliance (COA) and COA's Patient Advocacy Network (CPAN).
- Gain insight on the value of community oncology by our guest speaker, Mark Thompson, MD, Medical Director of Public Policy and long-time medical oncologist and policy expert.
- Advocacy action item: What to do next?
 - To learn more about how community oncology works for patients, visit CommunityOncology.org.
 - To learn more about COA's Patient Advocacy Network, visit coaAdvocacy.org.
 - Join us for our next advocacy chat on Wednesday, September 9th, 2020 at 12:00noon ET

When Facing a Cancer Diagnosis, Patients Have Different Treatment Options

- **Major academic centers and hospitals**
 - *MD Anderson Cancer Center, Memorial Sloan Kettering, etc.*
- **For-profit cancer centers**
 - *Cancer Treatment Centers of Americas*
- **Community Oncology Clinics**
 - *Over 950 independent practices across the United States*



Where You Are Treated Matters: Community Oncology Stands Apart from the Rest

- Cancer care comes in many forms.
- Different approaches to treatment can have implications on the experience, quality and cost of care.
- The majority of people with cancer are treated at community oncology clinics.
- There are more than 5,000 community oncology professionals at 950 practices nationwide.
- Community oncology means clinical teams have the power to develop meaningful, personal relationships with patients that help improve care and service.
- Evidence from the *New England Journal of Medicine* finds acquired hospitals that are part of a larger system were associated with modestly worse patient experiences.

Community Oncology Provides Care That Is...

- **Personalized**
 - At a community oncology practice, patients are never numbers.
 - Treatments are customized, taking personal and family preferences into account.
- **Convenient**
 - Community oncology practices are in communities close to where patients live and work.
 - Many community oncology practices have on-site pharmacies, making it easier to access vital treatments and start them promptly.
- **Cutting Edge**
 - Patients deserve access to the latest clinical trials, cutting-edge medicine, and comprehensive care.
 - In the past three years, the majority of new cancer drugs approved for use in the U.S. were studied in clinical trials in community oncology practices.
- **High quality**
 - Community oncology clinics deliver high-quality care at a fraction of the cost delivered in other settings.
 - A 2014 study from the IMS Institute for Healthcare Informatics found that the average cost for 10 common oncology drugs was \$134 higher per dose when administered in a hospital.
 - Additional research from AmerisourceBergen found that a lower price for chemotherapy in the community practice setting was observed regardless of whether a branded, generic, or combination of drugs was used.
- **Affordable**
 - Research from the Journal of Clinical Oncology shows the cost for treatment increases the farther a patient must go for care. Medicare spending on patients who travel 1+ hour for initial treatment was 14% higher than for patients traveling 30 minutes or less.
 - Identical treatment at hospitals can cost as much as 50 percent more than those at community oncology practices.

You Can Help Preserve Community Oncology

- Community oncology practices are under constant pressure to sell to big hospital corporations and health systems.
 - Health care consolidation and clinic closures are leaving patients with fewer choices and higher-priced options.
 - Other bad policy, like PBM abuses, step therapy and 340B impede independent oncologists' ability to provide the best care for their patients.
- Knowing what distinguishes treatment at a community oncology clinic from cancer care delivered at another site is vital to making a compelling case to preserve community oncology.

Thank You to Dr. Mark Thompson and Our Listeners

Don't miss our next advocacy chat
12pm | September 9, 2020

Emotional and Financial Resources for Cancer Patients



Trish Goldsmith
Chief Executive Officer
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