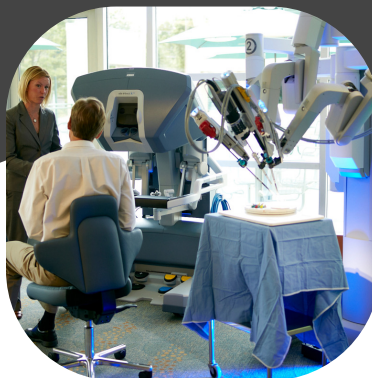


Cancer Committee Report 2015



southern
new hampshire
health

Our Cancer Committee

The Cancer Committee at Southern New Hampshire Health is dedicated to providing comprehensive cancer care. Committee members meet quarterly and represent diverse medical and surgical disciplines, including: oncology, surgery, pathology, radiology, nursing, physical and occupational therapy, nutrition, and more. Community education, quality and safety, and community partnerships also have an important place at the table.

Our Affiliation with Massachusetts General Hospital

Our affiliation with Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) assures our patients quick access to highly skilled specialists, the newest clinical trials, and shared test and treatment options.

Learn more about our MGH affiliation.

Listen to Donna tell her story about breast cancer treatment at Southern New Hampshire Medical Center and how the affiliation with MGH made it possible for her to receive the best possible care close to home in New Hampshire.

Also hear from fellowship-trained breast surgeon Dr. Suzanne Coopey and her experience of caring for patients at Southern New Hampshire Health (SNHH). Dr. Coopey is on active staff at both Southern New Hampshire Medical Center and Massachusetts General Hospital.

Clinical Trials

Southern New Hampshire Health offers patients access to the very latest in clinical trials, while giving physicians and researchers the opportunity to study the effectiveness of possible new treatment options.

In 2015, the Foundation Hematology/Oncology practice and the Cancer Center enrolled patients in five clinical trials. Twelve patients participated in active clinical trials specifically for breast cancer research.

Quality Initiatives

Patient and Family Advisory Council

In May 2015, the Cancer Committee welcomed a member of the Patient and Family Advisory Council, Ava Keenan, to the team. Ava will provide valuable insight into the actual patient and family experience. Her first contribution was gathering the patient education handouts given to newly diagnosed breast cancer patients, including those used at MGH, and offer guidance in standardizing the handouts across the continuum of care.

To learn more or to join our Patient and Family Advisory Council, visit snhhealth.org/pfac.

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Quality Initiatives, continued

Barriers to Care

A presentation was made to Cancer Committee to help identify potential barriers to care, such as access, transportation, high deductible insurances, and lack of preventative health awareness.

After discussion, transportation was chosen as an area for improvement. It was noted that the American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery program lacks drivers in the area, and local hospitals have limited their transportation assistance. Alternatives include Medicaid coverage for patients who qualify and nurse practitioners visiting some patients in their home. More work is underway to address the transportation needs of our community.

Palliative Care

Palliative care is focused on improving quality of life for both the patient and their family in times of serious and life-limiting illness. In 2015, a number of educational forums were held to educate the community and medical staff on Palliative Care, including a half-day seminar, *Bridging the Gaps: A Tool Kit for Patient Care*, a collaborative with Massachusetts General Hospital. In addition, a Palliative Care Screening is being implemented to facilitate early identification of needs and referral to inpatient and outpatient palliative care services.

Lung Cancer Screening Program

In 2015, Southern New Hampshire Medical Center achieved designation as a Lung Cancer Screening Center by the American College of Radiology (ACR).

Since April, 89 patients have been screened using low-dose CT (LDCT). Of the 89, two patients were identified with squamous cell carcinoma and six others are undergoing additional testing and follow-up care. Fifty-three percent of those screened were current cigarette smokers.

Lung Cancer Screening Program

For more information on the Lung Cancer Screening Program, talk to your doctor or visit snhhealth.org/lungcancerscreening or download our Lung Cancer Screening informational rack card.

To quit smoking, visit QuitWorks-NH or call the NH Tobacco Quit line at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669).

Quality Study

2015 Report: Melanoma

The NH State Improvement Plan (SHIP) has identified skin cancer as one of the priority areas for improvement by the year 2020. Although mortality rates in Nashua and its surrounding communities are lower than the state and target goal, melanoma still bears attention.

In 2015, this site was chosen for the annual quality study to ensure that our patients are evaluated and treated according to evidence-based guidelines. Once completed, the results will be presented to members of the cancer committee and to the medical community.

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Community Outreach

Programs

Our community outreach programs continue to receive high marks from its participants. In 2015, a total of six cancer-related educational events were offered with over 199+ community residents in attendance. From Targeted Therapies and Cancer Genetics, to the new Mammography Screening Guidelines, participants offered positive feedback, like “More like this!” “The speakers from Mass General are outstanding!” “These programs are wonderful—up to date information.”

In addition, our annual Skin Cancer Screenings helped to identify individuals who otherwise would not have been diagnosed or treated for their cancers. A total of 64 individuals were screened at three different locations, with 23 requiring follow-up care.

To learn more about our community education classes and screenings, visit snhhealth.org/classes.

