

2009 FACT SHEET**NCCN Boilerplate**

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), a not-for-profit alliance of 21 of the world's leading cancer centers, is dedicated to improving the quality and effectiveness of care provided to patients with cancer. Through the leadership and expertise of clinical professionals at NCCN Member Institutions, NCCN develops resources that present valuable information to the numerous stakeholders in the health care delivery system. As the arbiter of high-quality cancer care, NCCN promotes the importance of continuous quality improvement and recognizes the significance of creating clinical practice guidelines appropriate for use by patients, clinicians, and other health care decision-makers. The primary goal of all NCCN initiatives is to improve the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of oncology practice so patients can live better lives.

NCCN Mission

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network is dedicated to improving care along the continuum of cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up. An alliance of 21 of the world's leading cancer centers, NCCN communicates sound, evaluative clinical information to enhance the decision-making processes of patients, physicians, and others who influence access to and the choice of cancer care.

NCCN Programs and Resources**NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology™**

The NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology™ – the recognized standard for clinical policy in oncology – are the most comprehensive and most frequently updated clinical practice guidelines available in any area of Medicine. Covering 97 percent of all patients with cancer and updated on a continual basis, the NCCN Guidelines are developed through an explicit review of the evidence integrated with expert medical judgment and recommendations by multidisciplinary panels from NCCN Member Institutions. Specific treatment recommendations are implemented through performance measurement. NCCN Guidelines Panels address cancer detection, prevention and risk reduction, workup and diagnosis, treatment, and supportive care.

NCCN Guidelines have become the most widely used guidelines in oncology practice and have been requested by cancer care professionals in more than 115 countries. There has also been substantial international interest in translating the NCCN Guidelines into a variety of languages. Select NCCN Guidelines have been translated into Chinese, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish.

NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium™

Based directly on the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology™, the NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium™ contains authoritative, scientifically derived recommendations designed to support decision-making regarding the appropriate use of drugs and biologics in patients with cancer.

In 2008, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and UnitedHealthcare recognized the NCCN Compendium as a mandated reference for oncology coverage policy. Managed care medical directors, pharmacy benefits directors, and other health care professionals also reference the NCCN Compendium when making decisions that impact patient access to appropriate therapy. The Compendium lists appropriate uses of agents as derived from the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology™. The uses identified are based upon evaluation of evidence from scientific literature integrated with expert judgment in an evidence-based process. Indicated uses are categorized in a systematic approach that describes the type of evidence available for and the degree of consensus underlying each recommendation. All recommendations (at all category levels) in the NCCN Compendium constitute appropriate, medically necessary care. The Compendium lists both FDA-approved uses and appropriate uses beyond the FDA-approved label.

NCCN Chemotherapy Order Templates™

NCCN is developing a library of chemotherapy order templates to improve the safe use of drugs and biologics in cancer care. The information contained in the NCCN Templates is based on the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology™ and the NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium™. The NCCN Templates include chemotherapy, immunotherapy, supportive care agents, monitoring parameters, and safety instructions. Special instructions for self-administered chemotherapeutic agents are also provided.

National, Regional, and International Educational Conferences and Symposia

NCCN Annual Conference: Clinical Practice Guidelines & Quality Cancer Care™

The NCCN Annual Conference: Clinical Practice Guidelines & Quality Cancer Care™ attracts more than 1,300 attendees from across the United States and the globe including oncologists (in both private practice and academic settings), oncology fellows, nurses, pharmacists, and other health care professionals involved in the care of patients with cancer. Respected opinion leaders present the latest cancer therapies and provide updates on selected NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology™, the data upon which the NCCN Guidelines are based, and quality initiatives in oncology. Topics change annually but focus on the major cancers and supportive care areas. The NCCN Annual Conference also includes case study discussion forums with experts from leading cancer centers and roundtable discussions featuring the foremost professionals from the academic, patient advocacy, government, payor, industry, and business realms of cancer care.

NCCN Annual Congress: Hematologic Malignancies™

Treatment of hematologic malignancies is increasingly complex. Issues relating to pathology, transplantation, and various new therapies require oncologists and hematologists to stay abreast of breakthrough advances. In addition, targeted therapies and oral treatments bring the latest benefits to patients. This program focuses on new approaches that have been incorporated into patient management, including the use of drugs, biologics, and diagnostics. Featured NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology™ include: Acute Myeloid Leukemia, Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia, Hodgkin Disease/ Lymphoma, Multiple Myeloma, Myelodysplastic Syndromes, Non-Hodgkin's Lymphomas, and Supportive Care for Patients with Hematologic Malignancies.

NCCN Annual Forum: Innovative Diagnostics & Therapeutics in Cancer Care™

This is an exciting time in the treatment of cancer as a result of the tremendous volume of research being conducted worldwide. Our evolving understanding of the genomic and proteomic signaling responsible for aberrant cell growth has led to substantial improvement in our diagnostic and prognostic capability.

Advances in imaging technology integrated with sophisticated software have enhanced both morphologic and biochemical visualization of tumors. New targets for therapeutic development are rapidly emerging in this post-genome era, and the generation of new agents to be studied and applied in practice has accelerated. This program looks ahead to what might be included in the NCCN Guidelines and thus everyday oncologic practice.

NCCN Regional Guidelines Symposia™

NCCN Regional Guidelines Symposia™ provide an in-depth analysis of the evidence and thought processes that lead to the development of the NCCN Guidelines. NCCN provides continuing education to community oncologists and other health care professionals and the opportunity to hear presentations by NCCN Guidelines Panel Members and other esteemed national speakers.

NCCN International Medical Education

NCCN presents additional and expanded symposia to international audiences of medical professionals in oncology. NCCN held programs in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou, China; Tokyo, Japan; and Al Ain, United Arab Emirates on topics including breast, cervical, colon, gastric, kidney, non-small cell lung, ovarian, and rectal cancers, as well as non-Hodgkin's lymphomas and supportive care. These live educational programs bring the NCCN Guidelines and supporting data to international audiences through presentations from NCCN Guidelines Panel Members who develop the content.

JNCCN – The Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network

More than 20,000 oncologists and other cancer care professionals across the United States read *JNCCN – The Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network*. This peer-reviewed, indexed medical journal, edited by Harold J. Burstein, MD, PhD, from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, provides the latest information about best clinical practices, oncology outcomes, and new research initiatives. *JNCCN* features updates on the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology™, review articles elaborating on guideline recommendations, and health services and clinical research papers. *JNCCN*'s goal is to improve the quality of cancer care by addressing oncology practice for all disease stages and presentations. Content covers the entire spectrum of oncologic health care, from prevention and screening to treatment and supportive care. *JNCCN* also helps to enhance collaboration between academic and community physicians by reporting rigorous outcomes data from the world's leading cancer centers while providing a forum for correspondence and commentary.

NCCN Oncology Research Program (ORP)

The NCCN Oncology Research Program (ORP) is organized to obtain funding to support scientifically meritorious research projects at the NCCN Member Institutions. Policies and standards for the program were set by the NCCN Investigator Steering Committee, comprised of senior research physicians appointed by each NCCN Member Institution. The NCCN ORP has received \$18.8 million in research grants from major pharmaceutical companies to support investigator-initiated trials, which explore new venues of clinical investigation that answer important scientific questions. Studies evaluate innovative combinations and sequencing regimens of drugs, mechanisms of action of specific agents, or drug resistance or are directed toward exploring extended uses for specific agents.

NCCN has received the following grants to support investigator-initiated trials:

- Pfizer, Inc. – \$3,150,000 for clinical studies of irinotecan and celecoxib
- Roche Laboratories, Inc. – \$2,500,000 for clinical studies of capecitabine
- Pfizer, Inc. – \$2,000,000 for preclinical and specialized imaging studies of sunitinib
- Abraxis BioScience, Inc. and AstraZeneca – \$2,075,000 for clinical studies of paclitaxel, albumin bound
- Bristol-Myers Squibb Company and ImClone Systems Incorporated – \$1,163,574 for clinical studies of cetuximab in head and neck cancers
- Bristol-Myers Squibb Company and ImClone Systems Incorporated – \$1,512,613 for clinical studies of cetuximab in bladder cancer
- Cephalon, Inc. – \$1,391,193 for clinical studies of bendamustine
- Merck & Co., Inc. – \$1,000,000 for clinical studies of vorinostat
- Wyeth – \$4,000,000 for clinical studies of temsirolimus

NCCN Oncology Outcomes Database Project

The NCCN Oncology Outcomes Database Project is a network-based data collection, reporting, and analytic system that describes the patterns and outcomes of care delivered in the management of patients with cancer. The concept for the Project was established in 1996, and the operation of the first database in breast cancer was initiated in July of 1997. With the NCCN Oncology Outcomes Database Project, NCCN seeks to implement the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology™ through performance measurement. The objectives for data collection and reporting are to:

- Describe the patterns of care within NCCN Member Institutions
- Measure concordance of practice in NCCN Member Institutions with NCCN Guideline recommendations
- Evaluate the outcomes of such practice patterns
- Deliver benchmarked data to participating NCCN Member Institutions, practicing physicians, and NCCN Guidelines Panels to facilitate the continuous improvement of the quality of cancer care
- Identify the most efficient and cost-effective strategies for the management of common oncologic conditions
- Offer benchmarking capabilities to NCCN Member Institutions comparing network data, institutional data, and, eventually, community data
- Create a major research resource and repository of data for clinical and health service researchers to access and derive hypothesis-generated analyses

Presently, the NCCN Oncology Outcomes Database Project has five active database components: breast, colon/rectal, non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, non-small cell lung, and ovarian.

NCCN Patient Safety Summit

The NCCN Patient Safety Summit creates a forum for administrators from NCCN Member Institutions to share experiences and discuss best practices in oncology patient safety, a topic that has long been recognized as an integral component of high-quality medical care. In the past decade, the spotlight on safety in medicine has only become brighter. The stakes are especially high in oncology, and avoiding error is imperative in delivering chemotherapy and other high-risk treatments. The NCCN 4th Annual Patient Safety Summit, which focused on involving patients in safety, team training and education, and chemotherapy ordering, was held in November 2008 and attracted more than 70 physicians, nurses, pharmacists, cancer center directors, and quality and safety administrators.

NCCN Member Institution Profiles™

A reference guide for cancer case managers

NCCN Member Institution Profiles™ is an informational resource for case managers designed to facilitate appropriate decision-making about the management and referral of all cancer cases, including those that involve complex, aggressive, or uncommon cancers. The NCCN Member Institution Profiles™ references the areas of expertise, pediatric oncology specialties, and programs in genetic testing and counseling at each NCCN Member Institution. Additional information includes a glossary of terms derived from the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology™ and the National Cancer Institute. NCCN Member Institution Profiles™ also instructs case managers about how to schedule an appointment at an NCCN Member Institution and receive information about current clinical trials.

Managed Care Collaborations

NCCN establishes collaborations with managed care organizations and insurance companies to improve the quality and outcome of care delivered to patients with cancer and to facilitate patient access to NCCN Member Institutions. NCCN works with payors to ensure that patients have access to the expert and specialized services available at these leading cancer centers. NCCN aims to facilitate this process so that patients and health professionals can benefit from NCCN Member Institutions' commitment to providing the highest quality cancer care.

NCCN has active initiatives in place with UnitedHealthcare, OptumHealth (formerly United Resource Networks), Blue Cross® Blue Shield® Association, CIGNA, and Humana Inc. These organizations collaborate with NCCN on issues related to quality, coverage, reimbursement, and outcomes in cancer care. They also inform a large group of health care decision-makers about important issues in the delivery and financing of oncology care.

NCCN Oncology Case Management Program™

NCCN has developed an oncology case management education program designed to inform private payors' medical directors, case managers, and pharmacists about technology, guideline development, clinical trials, and advances in the delivery of cancer care. The program also highlights the comprehensive cancer care delivered by NCCN Member Institutions. Program participants are educated on topics such as the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology™ and the NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium™, oncology care today, emerging pharmaceutical and technology issues in cancer care, communicating with patients with cancer and addressing end-of-life issues, and understanding clinical trials.

NCCN.org

The NCCN website, NCCN.org, is a valuable resource for clinical professionals and other health care decision-makers. The NCCN website offers information about NCCN Member Institutions, NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology™, the NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium™, NCCN Chemotherapy Order Templates™, clinical trials, medical education, and much more. The most up-to-date versions of all NCCN resources can always be found at NCCN.org.

Physicians and other health care professionals rely on NCCN.org for the latest updates to the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology™, the NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium™, and the NCCN Chemotherapy Order Templates™. Clinical professionals can also register for national educational conferences and regional guidelines symposia; complete online continuing education programs; learn about the most recent developments at NCCN; and order NCCN resources including pocket guidelines of NCCN Guidelines, the Complete Library of NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology™ on CD-ROM, and accredited materials such as archived presentations on CD-ROM. Comprehensive information about NCCN Member Institutions is available along with links to the websites of each NCCN Member Institution. Links are also provided to connect to clinical trials information at each NCCN Member Institution.

NCCN.com

NCCN.com is the consumer website of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), a not-for-profit alliance of 21 of the world's leading cancer centers. It is the only patient-oriented cancer website based on the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology™, a leading clinical reference for clinicians around the globe. The goal of NCCN.com is to educate and prepare patients with cancer to engage in more informed conversations with health care providers so they can live longer and better quality lives.

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