



## **NCCN at a Glance: Improve the Quality, Effectiveness, and Efficiency of Cancer Care so that Patients Can Live Better Lives**

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®), a not-for-profit alliance of [27 leading cancer centers](#) devoted to patient care, research, and education, is dedicated to improving the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of cancer care so that patients can live better lives. 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.

NCCN was founded in 1995 by 13 leading U.S. cancer centers to ensure that all cancer patients, no matter their location, had access to high-quality, cost-effective treatment. Today, with more than twice as many Member Institutions, the organization maintains that commitment while establishing treatment guidelines that put patient values at the center of the decision-making process.

NCCN Chief Executive Officer Robert W. Carlson, MD, is a board-certified oncologist who previously served NCCN as chair of the NCCN Guidelines Panel for Breast Cancer, member and founding chair of the NCCN Guidelines Panel for Breast Cancer Risk Reduction, and chair of the NCCN Guidelines Panel for Survivorship. Dr. Carlson was also a long-standing member of the NCCN Board of Directors and other leadership committees.

NCCN's headquarters are located just outside of Philadelphia, PA.

### **What NCCN Does**

*NCCN helps level the playing field and raise the standard of cancer care for all patients around the world through access to its cancer treatment guidelines.*

- NCCN publishes the [NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology \(NCCN Guidelines®\)](#), evidence-based standards for the treatment of nearly every type of cancer, as well as key cancer screening and prevention topics. These are available online to oncologists free of charge.
- The 68 NCCN Guidelines® are developed by 53 panels, each comprising a broad, unbiased base of 25–30 clinician and researcher volunteers — resulting in **input from more than 1,350 multidisciplinary members** of the nation's top 27 cancer centers. Many panels **include patient advocates** and other relevant professionals.
- Although the NCCN Guidelines are based on the best available evidence, new data are always being published. For this reason, the NCCN Guidelines are **updated continuously** and developed through a **completely transparent process** that informs patients, clinicians, and payers of the evidence supporting treatment recommendations. This transparency allows decision-makers — physicians and patients — to understand the evidence upon which they make their treatment choices. In addition, each Guideline undergoes annual institutional review where it is circulated for comment among the multidisciplinary faculty at each NCCN Member Institution.
- Of all U.S. physicians surveyed by NCCN, **95 percent** report they use the NCCN Guidelines in their practices. In addition, payers, including but not limited to the two largest U.S. payers — UnitedHealthcare and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) — rely on the NCCN Guidelines to determine their oncology coverage policies.
- In 2017, the NCCN Guidelines were downloaded more than **8 million times**.
- Of registered users of the NCCN Guidelines, **more than 46 percent are international professionals**, with the most users in China, India, Japan, Canada, South Korea, Brazil, Italy, Spain, Mexico, and Taiwan.

## NCCN at a Glance (cont.)

- NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium (NCCN Compendium®) contains authoritative, scientifically derived information designed to support decision-making about the appropriate use of drugs and biologics in patients with cancer. The NCCN Compendium® is recognized by public and private insurers alike, including CMS and UnitedHealthcare as an authoritative reference for oncology coverage policy.
- **NCCN Biomarkers Compendium®** contains information designed to support decision-making around the use of biomarker testing in patients with cancer.
- **NCCN Chemotherapy Order Templates** (NCCN Templates®) include chemotherapy, immunotherapy, supportive care agents, monitoring parameters, and safety instructions based directly on recommendations within the NCCN Guidelines. Special instructions for self-administered chemotherapeutic agents are also provided.
- **NCCN Imaging Appropriate Use Criteria** (NCCN Imaging AUC™) include recommendations pertaining to cancer screening, diagnosis, staging, treatment response assessment, follow-up, and surveillance to support clinical decision-making for patients with cancer. In 2016, NCCN was recognized by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) as an approved provider-led entity for creation of imaging AUC.
- **NCCN Radiation Therapy Compendium™** includes recommendations pertaining to indications, modalities, clinical scenario, purpose, as well as the dosing regimens used for treatment. Additional information includes the clinical notes related to the specific recommendation. The NCCN Radiation Therapy Compendium™ also documents information on disease stage and histology.
- More than 142 NCCN Guidelines Translations have been published in **seven different languages**.
- Because certain diagnostic tests and/or treatment approaches may be unavailable in low- and middle-income countries where physicians use NCCN Guidelines, NCCN created the NCCN Framework for Resource Stratification of NCCN Guidelines (NCCN Framework™) to help health care providers **identify treatment options that will provide the best possible outcomes given specific resource constraints**.
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- Together with the African Cancer Coalition, American Cancer Society, and Clinton Health Access Initiative, NCCN launched the first eight **NCCN Harmonized Guidelines™ for Sub-Saharan Africa**, which outline two tiers of appropriate treatment recommendations.

*NCCN provides patients with the information they need to make value-based treatment decisions.*

- There are more than 30 [NCCN Guidelines for Patients®](#), **lay-friendly adaptations of the NCCN Guidelines** that provide patients with understandable information about their disease and treatment recommendations, and a framework for discussion with their care team.
- In 2017, there were more than **8 million page views** of the library of NCCN Guidelines for Patients® on NCCN.org.
- NCCN Guidelines with [NCCN Evidence Blocks™](#) provide a visual representation of five key value measures for treatment options in the NCCN Guidelines — efficacy, safety, quality and quantity of evidence, consistency of evidence, and affordability — in order to **put patient values first in the shared decision-making process**.
- NCCN Guidelines with [Categories of Preference](#) for drugs and biologics distinguish between preferred interventions, recommended interventions, and those useful in certain circumstances.

*NCCN funds research that improves cancer care.*

- NCCN's Oncology Research Program awards research grants from major pharmaceutical companies to **support investigator-initiated trials** at NCCN Member Institutions and their affiliates.

## NCCN at a Glance (cont.)

- Through donations and support, the NCCN Foundation® has **funded 36 young investigators** from NCCN Member Institutions with **\$5.2 million in research support**.

*NCCN's educational programming and publications influence health policy and inform members of the oncology community.*

- NCCN edits the fully peer-reviewed **JNCCN – Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network**, which covers updates on the NCCN Guidelines, innovation in translational medicine, and scientific studies related to oncology health services research, including quality care and value, patient outcomes, and public policy. With more than 25,000 subscribers in the U.S. and abroad, it is ranked seventh among journals read by oncologists and hematologist/oncologists and **fourth among oncology-specific journals**.
- Each year, NCCN hosts **three policy summits** and one State Oncology Society Forum to encourage discussion among oncology stakeholders and address current health policy issues.
- Each year, NCCN hosts more than 175 accredited live conferences and congresses, interactive webinars, recorded webcasts, and online programs attended by nearly **14,000 medical professionals**.

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