



NCCN at a Glance: Setting the Standard for Cancer Care

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) is a non-profit alliance of leading cancer centers devoted to patient care, research, and education whose treatment guidelines set the standard for quality cancer care in the United States and abroad. NCCN's [27 Member Institutions](#) consist of world-renowned experts who diagnose and treat patients with a broad spectrum of cancers and are recognized for dealing with complex, aggressive, or rare cancers.

NCCN was founded in 1995 by 13 U.S. leading cancer centers to ensure that all cancer patients, no matter their location, had access to high-quality, cost-effective treatment. Today, with 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 in Fort Washington, 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.

- The 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 67 NCCN Guidelines® are developed by 52 panels, each comprising a broad, unbiased base of 25–30 clinician and researcher volunteers — resulting in **input from more than 1,250 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 2016, the NCCN Guidelines were downloaded more than **6.9 million times**.
- Of registered users of the NCCN Guidelines, **approximately 47 percent are international professionals**, with the most users in China, Japan, India, Canada, South Korea, Italy, Spain, Brazil, the United Kingdom, and Taiwan.
- 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.
- There are more than **110 global adaptations and translations** of the NCCN Guidelines, representing **11 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 to help health care providers **identify treatment options that will provide the best possible outcomes given specific resource constraints**.

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 2016, there were more than **6.5 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 funds research that improves cancer care.

- NCCN's Oncology Research Program has received \$60 million in research grants from major pharmaceutical companies to **support investigator-initiated trials** at NCCN Member Institutions and their affiliates.
- Through donations and support, the NCCN Foundation® has **funded 35 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 24,000 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 more than 20,000 learners, **impacting more than 1.5 million patients with cancer**.