



NCCN Holds Tenth Annual State Oncology Society Forum

Kara Martin, MPH, Policy & Advocacy Fellow, NCCN

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Welcome and Introductions

Wui-Jin Koh, MD, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, NCCN, welcomed attendees and reviewed the forum agenda.

NCCN Update

Robert W. Carlson, MD, Chief Executive Officer, NCCN, provided an NCCN update with particular focus on NCCN's [continued response to COVID-19](#) and contributions to the [Elevating Cancer Equity \(ECE\) Initiative](#). All NCCN COVID-19 resources and initiatives are posted online, including peer-reviewed articles, updated treatment recommendations, and recorded webinars. Resources and initiatives from the ECE initiative are still in progress, as NCCN continues to collaborate with partner organizations to address the [ECE Workgroup Recommendations](#). Dr. Carlson also provided an overview of the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®) and highlighted guideline downloads, registered users, and panel expertise. Of note, NCCN published two new NCCN Guidelines® and nine new NCCN Patient Guidelines® in 2020.

Panel Discussion: Impact of COVID-19 & Vaccine Developments on Cancer Screening, Treatment, and Survivorship

Laura Makaroff, DO, Senior Vice President, Prevention & Early Detection, American Cancer Society (ACS); Lisa C. Richardson, MD, MPH, Director, Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and Steven Pergam, MD, MPH, Associate Professor, Divisions of Clinical Research and Vaccine & Infectious Disease, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center shared their respective insights on the impact of COVID-19 on cancer care and treatment outcomes. In doing so, they also highlighted three initiatives to meet the needs of patients with cancer throughout the pandemic.

Dr. Makaroff outlined an [open letter](#) and subsequent public awareness campaign that endorsed the safe resumption of cancer screening and treatment during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Cancer can pose a significant threat to people's health, and recent studies predict a significant increase in cancer morbidity and mortality due to pandemic-related delays in cancer screening and treatment.

Dr. Richardson discussed the CDC's [COVID-19 Home Page](#), which contains general guidance about COVID-19 as well as tailored recommendations for health care workers and immunocompromised individuals. She also noted specific resources for cancer patients, such as



the [Guide for Cancer Patients and Their Caregivers and Family Members](#) and the [National Program of Cancer Registries](#).

Dr. Pergam shared his experience as co-chair of NCCN's COVID-19 Vaccine Committee, which convened in January 2021. The multidisciplinary, multi-institutional committee published initial recommendations on January 22 and updated their recommendations on March 10. The most recent guidance from NCCN's COVID-19 Vaccine Committee can be found [here](#).

Overview of the Medicare Home Infusion Therapy Services Benefit

Susan Bauhaus, RN, Health Insurance Specialist, Division of Home Health and Hospice, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) presented on the Medicare Home Infusion Therapy Services Benefit. This benefit was established through the 21st Century Cures Act, enacted on December 13, 2016. It covers the professional services, including nursing services, furnished in accordance with the plan of care, patient training and education, remote monitoring, and monitoring services for the provision of home infusion drugs, furnished by a qualified home infusion therapy supplier in the individual's home. The home infusion therapy services are covered for the administration of certain drugs and biologicals administered intravenously, or subcutaneously for an administration period of 15 minutes or more, in the home of an individual, through a pump that is an item of durable medical equipment (DME).

Kara Martin, MPH, Policy & Advocacy Fellow, NCCN, facilitated a closing panel discussion with Ms. Bauhaus and two of her colleagues: Brian Slater, Director, CMS Division of Home Health and Hospice, and Kelly Vontran, MS, RN, Deputy Director, CMS Division of Home Health and Hospice.

This [searchable list/directory of home infusion therapy suppliers](#) is updated bi-weekly. For questions about home infusion therapy payment policy, view the [Home Infusion Therapy Services Benefit Beginning 2021, Frequently Asked Questions \(PDF\)](#) document or send inquiries via email to: HomeInfusionPolicy@cms.hhs.gov.

Best Practices and Perspectives from the Field

Stuart P. Feldman, MD, President, Empire State Hematology & Oncology Society (ESHOS), discussed the New York State Legislative Briefing on Precision Medicine and Biomarker Testing held on January 27, 2021. The briefing was organized in partnership with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Cancer Support Community, LUNGevery, and NCCN. It included an overview of testing components in precision medicine; the current landscape of biomarker testing coverage in New York State; a patient story and community perspective; and ample time for audience questions. All speakers were based in New York, representing Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, the Long Island Jewish Medical Center of Northwell Health, and Weill Cornell Medicine. The main goal of the briefing among event organizers was to build education and awareness about biomarker testing and serve as a resource to legislators that have championed biomarker legislation in the past, or plan to in the future.



Mary Kay Makarewicz, Executive Director, Michigan Society of Hematology & Oncology, presented on an Oncology Nursing Certification (OCN) Review Course. Over 2500 nurses have been trained through this review course in 22 years. The OCN Review Course is designed to meet the needs of oncology nurses in the oncology setting; nurses preparing for the OCN exam; and nurses seeking a comprehensive oncology review. It is ideal for all nurses, whether they are new to the specialty, re-entering the specialty, or currently working in the specialty. The six OCN course modules and exam topics are Care Continuum, Oncology Nursing Practice, Treatment Modalities, Symptom Management & Palliative Care, Oncologic Emergencies, and Psychosocial Dimensions of Care. Learning objectives include, but are not limited to identifying potentially lethal adverse events of chemotherapy; listing metabolic and structural events as potential oncologic emergencies; and discussing similarities and differences between hospice and palliative care.

About the State Oncology Society Forum

In recognition of the essential role of community oncologists and their representative state oncology societies in advancing the quality of cancer care, NCCN provides an annual forum for open dialogue, an exchange of best practices, and the identification of areas for collaboration. Fundamental to the success of this program are the shared core values of the state oncology societies and NCCN, which is to improve the lives of patients with cancer.

NCCN provides state oncology societies with access to NCCN Content and reports on updates therein. The next annual forum will be held in conjunction with the NCCN Annual Conference in March 2022. For more information about the NCCN State Oncology Society Forum, visit [NCCN.org](https://www.nccn.org).