



CANCER SERVICES

A cancer diagnosis, no matter what kind, is life changing.

Lake Charles Memorial Cancer Center

has all the technology and medical specialists necessary to treat your cancer, the emotional support you need to overcome it, and a level of service that is unmatched within the Southwest Louisiana community.

Leading Southwest Louisiana in Cancer Care Services

Accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC)

The Cancer Center at Lake Charles Memorial Health System offers diagnosis and treatment, clinical care, and a patient navigator program. Our support services include dietary and discharge planning. Both patients and family members benefit from spiritual care, support services, home health services, and counseling.

Accredited by the Commission on Cancer

Lake Charles Memorial has received accreditation from the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC). Our Cancer Center has held CoC accreditation since 1993 and currently maintains a three-year approval rating along with seven commendations. We also obtained an approval rating for the next three years based on seven commendations received because of compliance with 36 standards set forth by CoC. This is a voluntary program designating excellence and adherence to the high standards set forth by the Commission.

CoC accreditation challenges cancer programs to enhance the care they provide by addressing patient-centered needs and measuring the quality of the care they deliver against national standards. The CoC encompasses the best minds in cancer care utilizing expertise from the entire oncology community to set the highest standards of care for CoC-accredited cancer programs. CoC accreditation provides value through improved patient outcomes across all domains of care: access and service, satisfaction and well-being, quality of care and cancer outcomes. CoC accredited cancer programs are dedicated to providing the best in patient-centered care.

We may not be a major metropolitan community, but we are still doing incredible work, breaking barriers, and facilitating exciting treatments and opportunities—all because our staff is so good at what they do. The oncologists, surgeons, hematologists, technicians, and registered nurses on our team are uniquely dedicated, qualified, and capable. Most importantly, we are passionate about our work and tireless in our efforts to serve our patients with excellence.

Areas of Service

There are three different areas of focus for Lake Charles Memorial Cancer Services: the initial diagnosis and treatment planning; the treatment of the cancer itself; and the support groups and emotional caretaking of the patient outside of the clinical needs presented from a cancer diagnosis.

Cancer Conference

Cancer conferences are recognized by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer as an essential component of excellence in cancer care. Each week, a range of medical disciplines including surgery, pathology, radiology, medical and radiation oncology, as well as allied healthcare professionals meet for discussions on how to best care for each individual cancer patient. Patients benefit from the collective experience of multiple specialists together examining all treatment options available and individualizing a care plan specifically for them.



MEDICAL ONCOLOGY & HEMATOLOGY

Recognizing that every patient has unique needs, Lake Charles Memorial Medical Oncology and Hematology Services includes individualized diagnostic and treatment plans – whether on an inpatient or outpatient basis – in a comfortable, compassionate and patient-oriented atmosphere. Our cancer care and treatment options are comparable to nationally recognized cancer centers.

Our team of specially-trained chemotherapy nurses coordinates treatment for cancer and blood-related disorders with oncology physicians and your primary care physician for a comprehensive, integrated approach. These experts work together to determine the best course of treatment and may include physicians and nurses specializing in medical-surgical oncology, radiation oncology, hematology, pulmonology, gastroenterology, urology, gynecology, radiology and pathology.

Memorial's medical oncology and hematology services offer evaluation and management of:

- Solid tumors
- Hematologic malignancies
- Red blood cell disorders
- White blood cell disorders
- Platelet disorders
- Bleeding disorders

Chemotherapy & Infusion Services

Chemotherapy and infusion services at Memorial Oncology Unit consist of medications which circulate through the patient's blood and attack cancer cells at the sites of disease. Administering these medications requires highly skilled and specialized professionals. Medical oncologists and oncology nurses work closely with our pharmacy staff to manage dosages and monitor patient progress ensuring the best, cutting-edge formulas and optimal treatment plans to fight specific

diseases. The side effects of many new chemotherapy drugs are lesser in severity, but more powerful at targeting and eradicating cancer cells. Patient education ensures that you and your family are well-informed about the regimen and educated in ways to prevent and manage potential side effects. Targeted therapies are medications which target a specific pathway in the growth and development of a malignancy. This type of therapy attacks targets that are unique to a specific tumor, and therefore spare the normal cells of the body.

About 80% of our outpatient infusion chemo nurses at our main campus are certified, and for all of our campuses our certification percentages are at the commendation level for the Commission on Cancer. You can be assured that at LCMHS, you'll be receiving the highest level of service the Southwest Louisiana community can offer.

Clinical Trials

Today, cancer treatment is more effective and less toxic than ever before as a result of clinical trials. At Lake Charles Memorial's Cancer Center, we may recommend current clinical trials through regional and national research alliances and affiliations. If you are eligible for and interested in a clinical trial, your physician or our clinical trials nurse will speak with you about whether this option is right for you.

RADIATION ONCOLOGY

The Radiation Oncology Department at Lake Charles Memorial Health System is the top facility for cancer treatment in Southwest Louisiana. Radiation treatment can target and shrink tumors as well as kill cancer cells.

We utilize advanced treatments such as Trilogy and Smart Arc technology. Close to 3 in 5 of cancer patients will receive radiation therapy, and our two Trilogy linear accelerators utilize a radiation technology that more accurately pinpoints and destroys cancer cells in less time and with less side effects. We also utilize computerized real-time positioning during radiation treatment sessions to manage the motion of cancerous tumors.

Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT)

IMRT gives radiation oncologists the tools and technology necessary to pinpoint and destroy cancer cells using non-invasive therapy. Imaging technology such as computed tomography (CT) gives the oncologist a three-dimensional image of the growth. This allows for precision in planning

treatment of the cancer and eradication of the tumors using radiation therapy. Our technology enables us to maximize control of the radiation in order to precisely focus beams and protect surrounding, healthy parts of the body.

Brachytherapy

Our doctors carefully plan each patient's treatment. One option that may be considered for certain types of cancer-including skin cancer, gynecologic cancer, prostate cancer, esophageal cancer, breast cancer, and lung cancer is brachytherapy, which essentially means "short distance therapy." This technologically advanced and complex method can be accomplished in minutes, and utilizes tiny sources of radioactivity, which are precisely placed in or directly beside tumors using a high dose rate after-loader to destroy cancerous growths.

SURGICAL ONCOLOGY

Surgical oncology at Lake Charles Memorial involves the surgical removal of tumors and masses. Surgery is used to diagnose, stage and treat cancer, and certain cancer-related symptoms. At Lake Charles Memorial, our experienced surgeons have performed thousands of procedures and will discuss the surgical options that are best suited to your individual needs.

We also have state-of-the-art techniques to biopsy and analyze any masses detected in the breast. Stereotactic breast biopsies are used to assess breast abnormalities, as well as execute sentinel node biopsies. These biopsies use cutting-edge, pinpoint accuracy to remove the first few lymph nodes into which a tumor drains, or to take a biopsy of abnormalities in breast tissue. They are used for both breast diagnostics and treatment.

With other cancers, whether a patient is a candidate for surgery depends on factors such as the type, size, location, grade and stage of the tumor, as well as general health factors such as age, physical fitness and other medical co-morbidities. For many patients, surgery will be combined with other cancer treatments such as chemotherapy, radiation therapy or hormone therapy.

Early in the treatment planning process, we plan for and proactively manage any side effects from surgery. Our cancer navigator, nutritionists, rehabilitation therapists and clinicians work together with your surgical oncologist to support your healing and quality of life.

Cancer Navigator

Patient Navigators take the cancer patient through every step of the process striving to eliminate barriers to care and individually assess each person to determine what specific help they need. The critical window of opportunity, when patient navigation is most effective, is between the point of an abnormal finding and the point through diagnosis and treatment. Timely movement of an individual across the entire healthcare continuum is promoted from prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment, support and through to survivorship and, in some cases, end of life care. As a patient of Memorial's Cancer Center, all of our navigator services are provided - free of charge - to the patient.

The Patient Navigator can:

- Help you obtain access to care
- Guide you through the healthcare system
- Help you fill out insurance forms
- Help you find ways to pay for healthcare
- Direct you to healthcare services for further diagnosis and treatment
- Direct you to local resources and support
- Help you keep track of and find ways to get to your appointments
- Help you get your questions answered
- Help you find more information on healthcare

Lenore Hayes, Patient Navigator, was among the first group of navigators to obtain the only nationally accredited breast cancer patient navigation certification through Harold P. Freeman Patient Navigation Institute and the National Consortium of Breast Centers (NCBC). Most recently, she was among the first group of navigators to obtain the only nationally accredited patient navigation certification for all cancer sites through the Academy Of Oncology Nurse Navigators (AONN) and George Washington University. She is also now an Oncology Patient Navigator-Certified Generalist™ (OPN-CG).

Lymphedema Treatment

Finishing up a successful breast cancer treatment is one of the greatest accomplishments in a survivor's journey, but we often don't hear about the lingering side effects that can go along with treatment. One of these side effects is a condition called lymphedema, which can happen months and even years after breast cancer treatment has ended. Lake Charles Memorial Outpatient Therapy has a lymphedema therapist to help manage the effects of lymphedema and get you back

to feeling your absolute best.

While removing lymph nodes and radiation therapy are successful ways to treat breast cancer, they can damage the vessels through which lymph – the fluid that circulates throughout the body to remove wastes and toxins - moves. This can cause a backup of lymph fluid in certain areas, causing swelling– typically in the arm and hand.

While there is no cure for lymphedema once it has begun, there are ways to successfully manage it so that the swelling does not persist, the risk of infection is reduced and the discomfort and disruption to daily life does not continue.

Camp Bluebird

A unique experience for adult cancer patients, Camp Bluebird is a 3-day, 2-night camp held every fall at the Lake Arthur Camp Retreat Center. Enjoy beautiful lake views, magnificent cypress trees and comfortable accommodations. Surrounded by the beauty of nature, campers receive support in a creative, educational atmosphere. For more information, contact Karla David at 337.494.2121 or kdavid@lcmh.com or Ashley Rene at 337.494.4644 or arene@lcmh.com.

Support Groups

LIFE, HOPE, COURAGE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

This group is open to those diagnosed, undergoing treatment or who have completed treatment. Every meeting has a speaker on topics ranging from importance of exercise, diet, emotional health as well as music therapy, and many other topics. The meetings are held once a month and more details can be found with Ashley Rene at 337.494.4644.

LOOK GOOD. FEEL BETTER.®

A free program that helps women look their best during cancer treatment. Volunteer beauty professionals can help you with skin care and makeup application; wig selection and care; scarves, turbans and hat tips; as well as general style advice! Workshops are held quarterly. For more information, contact the American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org

SISTERS SURVIVING CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

A breast cancer support group for African-American women, but open to any woman regardless of race. For more information, call 337.477.4508.



Lake Charles Memorial
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