
Including:
Cancer Committee Chairman’s Report
Statistical Summary
Mercy Cancer Care Program Components
Site-Specific Analysis of Skin Cancer

MERCY
IOWA CITY
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500 East Market Street, Iowa City, Iowa 52245
www.mercyiowacity.org
Chairman’s Report
By Dr. Hamed Tewfik, Radiation Oncologist, Cancer Committee Chairman

On behalf of the Cancer Committee of Mercy Iowa City, I am pleased to introduce the 2010-2011 Cancer Program Report. The Cancer Committee is a multidisciplinary team that provides leadership for Mercy’s Cancer Program. This report includes an overview of the types of cancer patients cared for at Mercy; a focused review of skin cancer by Hobart Walling, MD, dermatology; and a summary of activities and improvements in patient care. Significant events and accomplishments since the publication of our last report include:

- Mercy’s Cancer Program received official notification of its three-year Approval with Commendation from the Commission on Cancer (CoC) of the American College of Surgeons. The CoC approval recognizes the comprehensive and state-of-the-art cancer care that is available at Mercy Iowa City, which has held this accreditation since 1992.
- The Cancer Program received special commendation in the areas of outcome analysis, abstracting timeframe, submission of National Cancer Data Base (NCDB) quality criteria, prevention and early detection programs, cancer education for cancer registry staff, and cancer-related quality improvements. The Commission on Cancer will have revised patient-centered standards beginning in 2012. We anticipate that the new standards will provide additional opportunities to refine and improve our cancer program.
- Scott Miller, MD, medical oncologist, has joined James Feely, MD, in providing medical oncology services at Cancer Care of Iowa City, LLC, a collaborative venture between Mercy Iowa City and University of Iowa Health Services.
- Denosumab (trade name XGeva), a monoclonal antibody, is now being used to help prevent skeletal-related events in patients with cancer that has spread and damaged bones. This subcutaneous injection is used for bone metastasis associated with solid tumors.
- There are now five general surgeons on Mercy’s medical staff, which helps facilitate patient access to consultation, surgery, and follow-up care. Timothy Light, MD, FACS; Darwin Peterson, DO, FACS; and Nathan Schneider, MD, FACS; all joined the medical staff in 2010.
- In addition, Henry J. Carson, MD, pathologist, joined the Mercy medical staff. Dr. Carson has a subspecialty board certification in cytopathology.
- Mercy’s Laboratory was reaccredited by the College of American Pathologists.
- Breast cancer coordination efforts have focused on patient education and comfort. Breast cancer education folders as well as new resources from the American Cancer Society are now available to patients. Post-operative comfort has been addressed by providing assistance to patients in obtaining and using surgical garments after mastectomy surgery.
- The Mercy Wound Center opened in September 2011 and offers an evidence-based approach for the treatment and healing of chronic wounds. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy is one of several therapies available.
- Participation with American Cancer Society (ACS) activities and services is a strong tradition at Mercy. Patients and families benefit from the American Cancer Society’s Cancer Resource Network, Reach to Recovery, and Look Good...Feel Better services. Staff members take active roles supporting the ACS community events Daffodil Days, Relay for Life, and the first Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk of Eastern Iowa.
- The tenth community cancer education forum, “Focus on Gynecologic Cancers: Hear from the Doctors,” was held in August 2011. Seven Mercy physicians served on the program faculty. Iowa City Channel 4 videotaped the program for television and online broadcast.
- The Mercy Hospice Unit has been open for more than two and one-half years, offering patients compassionate end-of-life care. A day of remembrance and reunion for family members and caregivers was held in November 2011.
- Our quality monitoring indicates that patients consistently perceive and rate their care experience at Mercy very highly. Communication and discharge instructions are areas where patients and families report high levels of satisfaction.

This is our twenty-second year of reporting about Mercy Iowa City’s cancer program. Each report has highlighted changes in technology, treatment, and our caring and healing environment. Changing to meet the challenges of providing quality cancer care is the expectation at Mercy Iowa City.
Statistical Summary

Incidence of Cancer by Site

Exhibit I summarizes the incidence of cancer by site at Mercy Iowa City in the 2010 calendar year. A total of 571 cases (507 analytic and 64 non-analytic) were seen at Mercy Iowa City. Digestive system, respiratory system, breast, and genitourinary cancers collectively comprised 77% of the cases in 2010. Skin cancer is the subject of the site-specific analysis in this year’s annual report.

Top Cancers in Females

According to “Cancer in Iowa-2010,” published by the State Health Registry of Iowa, the three most common sites of cancer in females are breast, lung, and colorectal. The three most common sites in females at Mercy Iowa City were breast, lung, and colon. In 2010, approximately 52% of all cancers diagnosed at Mercy Iowa City occurred in women. Exhibit II lists the most frequent sites of cancer in females at Mercy Iowa City in 2010. Breast cancer accounted for approximately 42% of the female cases. Lung cancer is next, accounting for 12%. Colon cancer accounted for 5%, corpus uteri accounted for 5%, and rectum-rectosigmoid accounted for 3%.

Top Cancers in Males

“Cancer in Iowa-2010” lists the three most common sites of cancer in males as prostate, lung, and colorectal. The three most common sites in males at Mercy Iowa City were prostate, lung, and colon. Approximately 48% of the total cancers diagnosed at Mercy Iowa City in 2010 occurred in men. Exhibit III summarizes the most common types of cancer occurring in males at Mercy Iowa City in 2010. Prostate cancer accounted for 28% of the male cases. Lung cancer was next most common in males at 13%. Colon accounted for 7%. Bladder cancer accounted for 6%, and non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma accounted for 5% of the total of male cancers diagnosed.

### Exhibit I

**Incidence of Cancer by Site**

**Mercy Iowa City, 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Site</th>
<th>Analytic</th>
<th>Non-analytic</th>
<th>Combined</th>
<th>Percent of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lip</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tongue</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salivary Glands</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floor of mouth</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mouth, Other &amp; NOS</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonsil</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oropharynx</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypopharynx</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esophagus</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stomach</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Intestine</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colon</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rectum, rectosigmoid</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anus, anal canal, anorectum</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liver</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallbladder</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancreas</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other digestive</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larynx</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung, Bronchus</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleura</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leukemia</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myeloma</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Hematopoietic</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bone</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft Tissue</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanoma of skin</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corpus uteri</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uterus, NOS</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ovary</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other female genital</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prostate</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testis</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other male genital</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bladder</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidney &amp; renal pelvis</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ureter</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brain</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Nervous System</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thyroid</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Endocrine</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hodgkin’s Disease</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown or ill-defined</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>507</strong></td>
<td><strong>64</strong></td>
<td><strong>571</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: State Health Registry of Iowa / Cases abstracted by SHRI Field Representative*
Definition of Terms

Analytic: Cases which are first diagnosed and/or received all or part of the first course of treatment at Mercy Iowa City.

Non-analytic: Cases which are seen at Mercy Iowa City after diagnosis and a full course of therapy elsewhere or which were first diagnosed at autopsy.

Stage of Disease: A description of the extent of tumor spread determined at the first course of treatment as categorized by the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program.

- **In-Situ**: Neoplasm that fulfills all microscopic criteria for malignancy except invasion.
- **localized**: Neoplasm that appears entirely confined to the organ of origin.
- **Regional**: Neoplasm that has spread by direct extension to immediately adjacent organs or tissues, developed secondary or metastatic tumors, metastasized to distant lymph nodes, or been determined to be systemic in origin.
- **Distant**: Neoplasm that has spread beyond immediately adjacent organs or tissues, by direct extension, developed secondary or metastatic tumors, metastasized to distant lymph nodes, or been determined to be systemic in origin.
- **Unknown, unstageable**: Tumor cannot be assessed or is unknown, or there is not enough information to assign a stage.

TNM Staging: A tumor classification system published by the American Joint Committee on Cancer used to stage cases. TNM stands for tumor, node, and metastasis.

Tumor Registry: A cancer data system which provides a record of the diagnosis, stage, treatment, and follow-up of all types of cancer at Mercy Iowa City.

Cancer Committee

The Mercy Iowa City Cancer Committee is a multidisciplinary committee responsible for planning and initiating all cancer-related programs and services at Mercy Iowa City. The committee is made up of physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals involved in the care of individuals with cancer. The Cancer Committee meets on a quarterly basis.

Tumor Registry

The Tumor Registry is a complete database of all cancer cases diagnosed and/or treated at Mercy Iowa City. The data in the Registry is available for use by the Cancer Committee, medical staff, and others for special studies, audits, and research. The Mercy Iowa City Tumor Registry is a shared service registry developed in cooperation with the State Health Registry of Iowa.

Cancer Conferences

The Cancer Committee sponsors weekly cancer conferences which are an educational and consultative component of Mercy's Cancer Program. During 2010, more than 70 case studies on a variety of types of cancer were discussed, including breast, prostate, lung, colon, renal pelvis, rectal, bladder, larynx, sarcoma, and lymphomas. Conferences focus on concurrent case reviews to allow for timely consultation and treatment planning. Each presentation includes review of the medical history and physical findings, clinical course, radiographic studies, and pathological interpretations.

Patient Care Evaluation Studies

The Cancer Committee conducts at least two patient care evaluation studies each year for the purpose of evaluating and improving the quality of cancer patient care at Mercy Iowa City.
EXHIBIT II
Top Cancers Among Females at Mercy Iowa City in 2010*

- Breast: 126
- Lung: 36
- Colon: 16
- Corpus uteri: 14
- Rectum, rectosigmoid: 10
- Bladder: 9
- Thyroid: 9
- Kidney & renal pelvis: 7
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma: 7
- Other nervous system: 6

EXHIBIT III
Top Cancers Among Males at Mercy Iowa City in 2010*

- Prostate: 78
- Lung: 36
- Colon: 20
- Bladder: 17
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma: 15
- Kidney & renal pelvis: 14
- Other hematopoietic: 10
- Rectum, rectosigmoid: 8
- Melanoma: 8
- Leukemia: 6

*Source: State Health Registry of Iowa
Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States, with more than 3.5 million cases diagnosed in over 2 million people per year. About one in five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime. The three most common types of skin cancer, in order of prevalence, are basal cell carcinoma (BCC), squamous cell carcinoma (SCC), and malignant melanoma.

Risk Factors
For all types of skin cancer, the risk is higher for those with fair skin tending to burn easily, chronic sun exposure, and a history of sunburns. Exposure to ultraviolet radiation in tanning beds has been especially linked to the development of malignant melanoma. Presence of atypical nevi (“moles”) and family history of melanoma are also risk factors. Medications or medical conditions that suppress the immune system (for example, organ transplant patients) appear to particularly increase the risk of SCC. Indeed, solid-organ transplant recipients have a 65- to 250-fold increased risk of SCC compared to the general population. Age is a particular risk for nonmelanoma skin cancer (i.e., BCC and SCC). It is estimated that 40-50 percent of Americans who live to age 65 will have nonmelanoma skin cancer at least once. Exhibit IV compares age at diagnosis for melanomas at Mercy Iowa City and other community hospital cancer programs in 2000-2008 (most recent statistics available for comparison from the National Cancer Database Benchmark Reports.)

Screening and Detection
Early detection of any skin cancer is a key to enhancing outcomes. Monthly skin self-examination is recommended, with report of new or changing skin lesions to a health care provider. Patients at high risk of skin cancer, including those with significant past sun exposure, presence of atypical nevi, history of skin cancer, and those with long-term immune suppression should generally be seen routinely (at least yearly) by a dermatologist. Recommendations have not been established for screening intervals for low-risk patients, but a baseline skin examination for people over age 50 is generally considered to be worthwhile.

**Basal Cell Carcinoma.** BCC is the most common type of skin cancer. The incidence increases with age. About two-thirds of cases arise on the head and neck and particularly the face, supporting the role of chronic sun exposure. The nose and ears are the most common sites. BCC often presents as a pink, red, or flesh colored pearly bump, a sore that bleeds easily and does not heal, a pimple-like bump that persists, or a reddish patch that expands. BCC arises from keratinocytes, the primary structural cell which forms the skin. The diagnosis is established by a skin biopsy.

While the rates of metastasis and mortality of BCC are fortunately very low (<0.01%), BCC can be associated with aggressive local growth and tissue destruction. Surgical treatment is the most common therapy for BCC. Excision and Mohs micrographic surgery are associated with excellent cure rates (>95%) with the latter technique a specialized tissue-sparing approach that is especially suited for managing skin cancers on functionally and cosmetically sensitive areas. Destructive treatments (curettage, electrosurgery) are also options. Radiation therapy is considered for cases in which surgical management would be suboptimal or contraindicated. Topical therapies (including imiquimod and 5-fluorouracil) are occasionally used for cases in which the skin cancer is very superficial and has not penetrated deeply.

**Squamous Cell Carcinoma.** SCC is the second most common type of skin cancer. Like BCC, it generally appears on sun exposed skin. SCC often presents as a firm scaly bump, a rough pink patch, or a nonhealing sore. Like BCC, SCC of the skin is also derived from keratinocytes. Diagnosis is established with a skin biopsy. SCC is generally a more serious skin cancer than BCC, though the prognosis is still excellent. The risk of regional spread or metastasis for SCC has been estimated to be 1-4 percent, with most such cases involving spread to the regional lymph nodes. Large tumors, deep tumors, immunosuppression, and presence on the ear are independent risk factors for metastasis. Long term survival for SCC is >99 percent. Management is generally surgical, with standard excision and Mohs surgery most commonly utilized. Radiation therapy is occasionally used in addition to surgery for more advanced cases.

**Malignant Melanoma.** Melanoma is the most serious type of skin cancer. Its incidence has increased dramatically over the past several decades. Currently one in 55 Americans will be diagnosed with melanoma in their lifetime. In 1980, the risk was one in 250. In 1960, the risk was 1 in 800. It is estimated that one person dies of melanoma every 62 minutes. Nearly 115,000 new cases of melanoma were diagnosed in the United States in 2010, with nearly 8700 (7.5%) resulting in death. Melanoma is the fifth most common cancer in men and the sixth most common cancer in women. It is the most common cancer in women age 25-29 and the second most common cancer in women age 15-29.

Melanoma is a cancer of melanocytes, the pigment producing cells of the skin. However, melanoma can also develop in the eye, digestive tract, brain or spinal cord, or other areas where melanocytes are found. These types of melanoma are often very dangerous because they are more difficult to detect.

Melanoma of the skin generally presents as a new or changing mole. Warning signs of melanoma are described by the mnemonic ABCDEs. These include a mole that is Asymmetric, has an irregular Border, irregular Color (often black or dark brown, but also multiple shades including brown and red), and larger Diameter (over 6 mm), or a changing or Evolving mole. Melanoma can also present as a colored streak in the fingernail or toenail. Diagnosis is through biopsy or excision of a suspicious lesion.

The prognosis and treatment for melanoma depends upon its stage. The most important determinant of the stage is the depth of penetration in the skin. Mitotic rate and ulceration are also important. Melanoma that is limited to the top layer of skin (epidermis, i.e., melanoma in situ), has an excellent prognosis; it is treated by excision with a 10-year survival rate of 99 percent. Thin melanomas (under
1 mm of depth) have a good prognosis (10-year survival rate 86-95 percent) and are also treated with wide local excision. Intermediate depth melanomas (those 1-4 mm in depth and not involving lymph nodes at the time of diagnosis) have a 10-year survival rate of 57-67 percent. Deep melanomas have a 10-year prognosis of about 40 percent. Exhibit V shows a comparison of stage at diagnosis for melanomas at Mercy Iowa City and other community hospital cancer programs in 2000-2008 (most recent statistics available for comparison from the National Cancer Database Benchmark Reports).

The increased mortality of intermediate and deep melanoma relates to the propensity for regional spread and metastasis. Lymph node biopsy is often undertaken to predict when these melanomas have spread in the body. Melanoma that has spread to lymph nodes (only) has a 10 year survival of 24-68 percent. Metastatic melanoma has a poor prognosis, with a 10-year survival of 10-15 percent. Surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy are options for melanomas that have spread to lymph nodes or distantly. Exhibit VI compares the observed five-year survival rate for melanomas at Mercy Iowa City and other community hospital cancer programs in 2003 (most recent statistics available for comparison from the National Cancer Database Benchmark Reports).

**Prevention**

The following recommendations apply to prevention of all types of skin cancer.

- Use sunscreen. Sunscreen should be broad spectrum with an SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 30. It should be reapplied every two hours during times of sun exposure.
- Seek shade, particularly when the UV light is strongest, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Wear protective clothing including hats and sunglasses.
- Avoid exposure to artificial tanning beds and sun lamps.
- Check your own skin monthly and let your doctor know if you notice a changing skin lesion.


**Acknowledgement:** Special thanks to Abby Walling for data acquisition and graphics.

**Exhibit Sources:** National Cancer Data Base Benchmark Reports
Cancer Support Services at Mercy Iowa City

A full range of cancer services is available at Mercy Iowa City. More information can be obtained from Mercy On Call, “358-2767 or toll-free 1-800-358-2767.

Diagnostic services
- Digital diagnostic and screening mammography
- Stereotactic breast biopsy
- Sentinel node injections/localizations
- Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of all areas, including breast MRI
- Nuclear medicine imaging and testing
- PET/CT imaging
- Ultrasound imaging
- Computed tomography (CT), including CT colonography
- Special procedures—biopsies, paracentesis, thoracentesis, epidural and joint injection procedures
- PICC line placements

Cancer Care of Iowa City, LLC
Outpatient chemotherapy, hematology, and educational services are provided in Cancer Care of Iowa City, LLC, located in the Mercy Cancer Center, 613 East Bloomington Street. Compassionate care is provided by medical oncology specialists in pleasant surroundings.

Iowa City Cancer Treatment Center
Radiation therapy is provided at the Iowa City Cancer Treatment Center, also located in the Mercy Cancer Center. Inpatients and outpatients alike are cared for by radiation oncologists and the professional staff in the center's relaxed, home-like atmosphere. Many educational materials are available there as well. Transportation and a nurse escort are provided to and from the center for Mercy inpatients.

Home Care Services
Mercy offers professional and personal services for patients and families who need extra support at home. These services include nursing and rehab services, skilled nursing, wound/ostomy nursing, nutritional counseling, home care aides, medical social worker services, and pastoral care. Mercy Home Care is Medicare/Medicaid certified.

Personal cares, 24-hour care, overnight companionship, homemaking, transportation, light housekeeping, medication reminders, and physician follow-up are also available on a private pay basis.

Mercy Lifeline is a home-based medical emergency response system. It provides a communication link for the subscriber 24 hours a day.

For information: 319-358-2740

Finances and Insurance
Questions about insurance coverage can be directed to Mercy's Patient Accounts Office: 319-339-3616.

Mercy offers a Financial Assistance Program for those with identified needs who meet specific criteria; call 319-339-3907.

American Cancer Society
The American Cancer Society and Mercy staff work together to provide such services as Look Good . . . Feel Better, Road to Recovery, Cancer Resource Network, and other information and support services.

Mercy Hospital Foundation
Mercy Hospital Foundation has a specific fund for cancer care. Donations to the Cancer Care Fund contribute to diagnostic and education services at Mercy. The Foundation also provides the funds for diversionary and support activities.

For information: 319-339-3657

Guest Lodging
Overnight lodging is available at a nominal cost in Mercy Guest Lodging, located on 3 Mercy North. These private rooms offer twin beds, television, telephone, and private bathroom.

For information: 319-339-3659

The Hope Lodge
The Russell and Ann Gerdin American Cancer Society Hope Lodge in Iowa City provides supportive, non-medical accommodations at no cost during cancer treatment for adult cancer patients and their caregivers. It is located near the Ronald McDonald House and is open to patients from Mercy, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, and VA Medical Center who reside 40 or more miles away from their treatment facility.

Mercy Hospice Care and Local Hospice Services
Mercy Iowa City opened a new six-bed community hospice unit in April 2009. It is designed to serve the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of patients facing the end of life and the needs of their loved ones.

Mercy's cancer care staff also works with area hospices to assist with patient care needs. Iowa City Hospice is one example of an agency that offers care and support to individuals at the end of life.

Rehabilitation Services
Physical, occupational, and speech therapy are provided through Progressive Rehabilitation Associates, LLC. The Mercy Wound Center opened in September 2011 to offer an evidence-based approach to the treatment and healing of chronic wounds. Enterostomal nursing therapy is also available.

Education Services
Information on types, treatments, detection, and prevention of cancer is available through Cancer Care of Iowa City, patient care areas, and Mercy’s Education Office. Mercy staff collaborate with the American Cancer Society to provide services.

Nutrition Counseling
Mercy dietitians provide individual assistance with nutritional assessments, special dietary instructions, and basic nutritional counseling.

Pastoral Care
Mercy's chaplains can help patients and their families when questions, fears, and concerns may seem overwhelming. Pastoral Care staff members can also help with specific religious needs, such as receiving the Catholic sacraments or arranging for clergy of any faith to visit with patients and family. Resources such as audiotapes and books are also available through Pastoral Care.

Social Support
HOPE Cancer Support Group welcomes people with any type of cancer and their families. The Continuing After Breast Cancer Support Group provides women with mutual support and sharing after breast cancer. Monthly meetings of both groups take place at Mercy.

Support groups for people with other specific types of cancer are available in the Iowa City area.

For information: Mercy On Call, 319-358-2767 or 1-800-358-2767