



Immediate Release

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Helen F. Graham Cancer Center & Research Institute again earns full accreditation from ACS Commission on Cancer

Wilmington, DE, June 2, 2016 – [Christiana Care Health System's Helen F. Graham Cancer Center & Research Institute](#) received three-year reaccreditation from the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons in May. The cancer program at Christiana Care has received Commission on Cancer accreditation since 1951.

To earn voluntary accreditation, a cancer program must meet or exceed 34 Commission on Cancer quality-care standards, be evaluated every three years through a survey process and maintain levels of excellence in the delivery of comprehensive and multidisciplinary patient-centered care.

“The dedication of our physicians and staff to consistently meet and surpass the standards for accreditation by the Commission on Cancer speaks volumes to our patients who expect high quality cancer care and services close to their own communities,” said Nicholas J. Petrelli, M.D., Bank of America endowed medical director of the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center & Research Institute. “Our goal is to continue to meet and exceed those expectations in every aspect of our cancer program.”

In its performance report, the Graham Cancer Center received Commission on Cancer commendation ratings (highest possible) in six areas, including praise for “an especially high rate of clinical trials.” Patient enrollment rates into clinical trials at the Graham Cancer Center are at 20 percent, five times the national average.

The report also commended the Graham Cancer Center for excellence in oncology nursing, “at the forefront of patient navigation with 19 nurse navigators on board.” Nurse navigators are key to helping breakdown barriers to care in our communities and in facilitating timely access to clinical services and resources, for patients, families and caregivers.

The report also highlighted the quality of cancer registrar education at the Graham Cancer Center.

As a Commission on Cancer-accredited facility, the Graham Cancer Center maintains a cancer registry and contributes data to the National Cancer Data Base, the largest clinical disease registry in the world. Certified, well-trained cancer registrars are essential to maintaining the level of quality in registry data necessary to accurately assess treatment outcomes and patient survival.

Other areas singled out for commendation include public reporting of outcomes and promoting evidence-based care through participation in the Commission's Rapid Quality Reporting System.

Receiving care at a Commission on Cancer-accredited cancer program ensures patients receive:

- Quality care close to home.
- Comprehensive care, including prevention, early diagnosis and a full range of state-of-the-art services and equipment.
- A multidisciplinary, team approach to coordinate the best cancer-treatment options available and improve patient care.
- Access to cancer-related information and education, and to patient-centered services such as navigation and psychosocial distress screening.
- Options for genetic assessment and counseling, and palliative care services.
- Ongoing monitoring and improvement of care and assessment of treatment planning based on evidence-based national treatment guidelines, and opportunities for clinical trials and new treatment options.
- Follow-up care at the completion of treatment, including rehabilitation and a survivorship care plan.
- A cancer registry that collects data on cancer type, stage and treatment results and offers lifelong patient follow-up.

The Helen F. Graham Cancer Center & Research Institute, a National Cancer Institute (NCI) Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP), is part of Christiana Care Health System, one of the country's largest health care systems, ranking as the 21st leading hospital in the nation and 10th on the East Coast in terms of patient admissions. With more than 219,000 patient visits last year, the Graham Cancer Center is recognized as a national model for multidisciplinary cancer care and a top enroller in U.S. clinical research trials. Its Center for Translational Cancer Research, Tissue Procurement Center, Gene Editing Institute, statewide High-Risk Family Cancer Registry and collaborations with world-renowned scientists at facilities such as the University of Delaware and The Wistar Institute in Philadelphia are opening new avenues to more quickly translate cancer science into cancer medicine.

Established in 1922 by the American College of Surgeons, the Commission on Cancer is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving patient outcomes and quality of life for cancer patients through standard-setting, prevention, research, education and the monitoring of comprehensive, quality care. There are currently more than 1,500 Commission on Cancer accredited cancer programs in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, representing 30 percent of all hospitals.

For more information about the cancer program, visit www.christianacare.org/cancer.

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