# Table of Contents

A Letter from W. Thomas Purcell  
About UCHealth Cancer Care  
Our Programs  
Service Area  
Accreditations, Affiliations & Awards  
Oral Adherence Project  
Regional Quality Studies  
  Northern Colorado  
  Metro Denver  
  Colorado Springs  
Patient-Centered Care  
Multidisciplinary Care  
Patient Stories  
  Patient Story: Peyton Linafelter, ovarian cancer survivor  
  Patient Story: Sara DeBord, breast cancer survivor  
  Patient Story: Phyllis Sanchez, breast cancer survivor  
Research  
Registry Data
In 2016, we have accomplished a lot to provide the best quality of care and patient experience. We should be very proud of the growth we have seen throughout the regions and the continued collaboration between providers and staff regardless of UCHealth location.

At the end of 2016 we saw a close to 20 percent increase in visit volumes compared to 2015. New practices and providers joined UCHealth Cancer Care; Northern Colorado added five additional providers to their clinic and Metro Denver added a new medical oncology and radiation oncology practice to the expanding portfolio. These additions further increased access to care and the number of locations where patients can be seen throughout the Front Range. We’ll open three new hospitals in the next two to three years, which will further broaden our geographical footprint.

The oncology service line continues to develop patient-centered programs to further benefit the overall patient experience. In 2016, the oncology rehabilitation program was implemented system-wide. The goals of this program are to help reduce cancer-related side effects and improve cancer patients’ quality of life during and after treatment. Implementation of programs like this further ensure that patients receive the same standard of care regardless of location.

Colorado Springs successfully passed the Commission on Cancer reaccreditation survey and received commendation in the accuracy of data submission, pathology protocols and clinical trial accruals. The Colorado Springs region also started breast and neuro multidisciplinary clinics.

The success of the new programs and ongoing clinical quality is largely due to the integration between all UCHealth sites and clinical providers. We continue to sustain QOPI initiatives (Quality Oncology Practice Initiatives) throughout UCHealth, demonstrating our commitment to high-quality care.

Having access to clinical trials is necessary to provide optimal care for patients with cancer. It is the way we find new interventions to improve clinical care. In the past year, we have broadened our investigator-initiated trials (IIT) to all regions. This means that the UCHealth University of Colorado Cancer Center faculty are developing new clinical trials that patients from all regions can participate in, close to home. The results from these studies will lead to new treatment options for patients nationwide.

The service line has accomplished a lot of great things this year and I look forward to more successes in the next year. Thank you for your efforts and commitment in making UCHealth Cancer Care the best in the nation.
About UCHealth Cancer Care

Our goal is to keep you one step ahead.

With cancer care in a constant state of evolution, your treatment should never feel reactionary. By staying on the leading edge, we proactively work to address all complications, worries and questions you might have during your journey.
Seamless, real-time collaboration. That’s what makes UCHealth the best cancer care program in the region. Our partnerships with the UCHealth University of Colorado Cancer Center, University of Colorado Hospital, community hospitals and clinics throughout the state help us to provide patients with cutting-edge science, expertise and research, no matter which city you live in.

Establishing a new standard of care across the Front Range.

Working together through clinical trials and multidisciplinary conferences allows our physicians to provide you with the most innovative treatments. Thanks to integrated service lines and electronic medical records, all patients are ensured the highest level of service, multiple specialists, additional opinions and harmonious cooperation, regardless of their location.
UCHealth University of Colorado Cancer Center is one of only 47 comprehensive cancer centers in the entire country designated by the National Cancer Institute. We’re recognized as a world leader in cancer care because of our dedication and commitment to:

RESEARCH
Our clinical and laboratory research shapes the future care of cancer.

EDUCATION
Training and developing the future leaders in cancer care.

INNOVATION
We are leading the way to develop new protocols and procedures for cancer treatment.

CLINICAL EXCELLENCE
Providing patients with specialized care regardless of diagnosis.
The National Cancer Institute (NCI).

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is the federal government’s principal agency for cancer research and training. The NCI supports 69 Designated Cancer Centers and more than 5,000 grantees. NCI-Designated Cancer Centers are recognized for their scientific leadership, resources and the breadth of their research in basic, clinical and population science. Comprehensive Cancer Centers demonstrate an added depth of research, as well as substantial trans-disciplinary research. Basic Laboratory Cancer Centers conduct laboratory research. There are 13 cancer centers, 49 comprehensive cancer centers and seven Basic Laboratory Cancer Centers. These centers offer training for scientists, physicians, surgeons and other professionals seeking specialized training or board certification in cancer-related disciplines.

Designated Centers undergo a comprehensive review of structure, process and outcomes every five years, which includes a competitive grant application and site visit. Based on the outcome, the NCI then awards grant funding to the centers.

UCHealth University of Colorado Cancer Center - Anschutz Medical Campus is an NCI-Designated Comprehensive Consortium Cancer Center. This means that the Center is made up of multiple organizations, all of which contribute to the core mission. Member institutions include Children’s, Denver Health, University, VA, University of Colorado Boulder, University of Colorado Denver and Colorado State University. Each institution contributes to the Cancer Center mission through teaching, research and clinical care.

42 of our physicians sit on the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) panels, developing guidelines for cancer care throughout the care continuum.
Located throughout Colorado, the eastern plains and southern Wyoming, we constantly strive to cultivate convenience for cancer patients at the heart of the nation.

**Northern Colorado and Wyoming**
- Poudre Valley Hospital
- Cancer Center - Harmony Campus
- Medical Center of the Rockies
- Cancer Care and Hematology Clinic - Greeley
- Cancer Care and Hematology Clinic - Estes Park
- Cancer Care and Hematology Clinic - Laramie
- Cancer Care and Hematology Clinic - Fort Morgan
- Cancer Care and Hematology Clinic - Yuma
- Cancer Care and Hematology Clinic - Wray
- Cancer Care and Hematology Clinic - Holyoke

**Metro Denver**
- University of Colorado - Cancer Center - Anschutz Medical Campus
- Lone Tree Medical Center
- UCHC Health Cancer Center - Littleton
- Shaw Regional Cancer Center in Edwards*
- Callaway Young Cancer Center in Glenwood Springs*
- St. Mary’s Cancer Center in Grand Junction*

**Colorado Springs**
- Memorial Hospital Central
- Memorial Hospital North
- Woodland Park
- Lamar

*Regional affiliates
Together, our staff and patients are building momentum.

- Increased remissions
- Decreased readmissions
- Extended survival rates

The numbers say it all and we’ve got you to thank for the incredible trust and support.
Accreditations, Affiliations & Awards

Gaining ground with every case.

UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital is the top-ranked cancer hospital in Colorado and ranked No. 22 in cancer care in the nation.

UCHealth Cancer Care earned official certification as a Quality Oncology Program.

Together with our sports partners, UCHealth aims to bring education, awareness and select medical services to Colorado communities, including health screenings and 3D mammography screenings.

All sites Commission on Cancer accredited.

UCHealth Medical Center of the Rockies
UCHealth Poudre Valley Hospital
UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital
(Nation’s 100 Top Hospitals).

American College of Radiology accredited at all sites.

UCHealth Memorial Hospital Breast program is NAPBC accredited.

UCHealth is part of the Lead Academic Participating Sites with the National Clinical Trials Network across our hospital system.

UCHealth is the official health care partner and medical services provider for the Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center.
Oral Adherence Project

Exceeding expectations for patient education.

What interested us.
Better education patients on oral chemotherapy and assessing their adherence or resistance to toxicity.

Our plan of action.
Initiating best practice alerts in electronic medical records whenever oral chemotherapy is ordered, a patient visits a clinic or has an infusion, which allows doctors to reinforce the following points:

- Administration and directions.
- Storage of the drug.
- Proper disposal.
- Recognizing adverse effects.
- Reporting effects to their providers.

The outcome.
After implementing this project, most of our patients have either met or exceeded the targeted compliance rate of 85 percent.
What interested us.
The low (47 percent) conversion rate of referred patients taking part in oncology rehab, as well as the lack of knowledge surrounding its benefits.

Our plan of action.
Educational sessions were incorporated into departmental staff meetings, as well as Quarterly Service Line Updates and one-on-one meetings with new staff members.

The outcome.
By increasing awareness in staff and dispelling myths of excessive patient involvement, the oncology rehab program saw conversion rates rise between 60-79 percent.
Blood cancer discharge process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>30-day readmissions</th>
<th>14-day readmissions</th>
<th>7-day readmissions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>reduced down to</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Gynecologic oncology surgical patients:**

- Patient meetings after discharge to decrease complications and dissatisfaction.
- Closed gaps of communication between the inpatient and outpatient teams.
- Ongoing education at new hire orientations and monthly resident events.
- New post-op admission order that coincides with existing information within the gynecology oncology team.

**Regional Quality Study Metro Denver**

**Going the extra mile to reduce readmissions in the Mile High City.**

**What interested us.**
Improving patient care and satisfaction scores by identifying areas in need of improvement and strengthening them accordingly.

**Our plan of action.**
Two studies were initiated. One was focused on improving quality and safety in the blood cancer discharge process. The other was about improving patient care from preadmission to post-discharge for gynecologic oncology surgery.

**The outcome.**
Many opportunities were identified allowing UCHealth Metro Denver to make improvements in readmissions, workflows and patient outcomes.

**Blood cancer discharge process.**

+ improved workflows and patient outcomes
Driving advancements in multidisciplinary rounding.

What interested us.
Improving multidisciplinary rounds on cancer patients admitted to the Cancer Patient Care Unit.

Our plan of action.
Surveys were sent to both patients and staff that identified a need for improved timeliness and communication as well as physical and occupational therapy.

The outcome.
A new multidisciplinary rounding tool was developed that made significant improvements in the following areas:

- Improved timeliness and comprehensive reporting.
- Daily patient meetings with the oncologist, pharmacist, IP charge nurse and members of the physical/occupational therapy team.
- More appropriate oncologic discharge prescriptions and patient education.
- Enhanced inpatient chemotherapy education.
By bringing the best minds together, we minimize every obstacle, improve timelines and treat the whole person … not just the disease.
Patient-Centered Care

**A dynamic journey efficiently focused on you.**

**Access.**
New appointments are routinely available within two days, providing adequate time to collect and review health records to ensure a complete consult.

**Single entry.**
Patients and caregivers can conveniently call one regional number for all their needs:
- **Northern Colorado:** 970.237.7700
- **Metro Denver:** 720.848.0300
- **Colorado Springs:** 844.362.0400

**Multidisciplinary clinics and team approach.**
Our multidisciplinary team rapidly evaluates each case, which reduces time to diagnosis and plan consensus. This results in faster time to treatment and survivorship. Patients can often see multiple providers at the same visit.

**Surgery.**
Surgical cancer treatments focus on the surgical management of tumors.

**Patient navigators.**
Certified oncology nurses help patients become educated about their disease and treatment options, while staying connected with them through all phases of their journey.

**Genetic counseling.**
Our certified counselors work closely with patients and their medical teams to diagnose and treat diseases that have genetic links.

**Therapy and observational clinical research.**
We provide access to innovative drugs and vaccines years before they are widely available.

**Targeted therapy.**
Our advanced radiation therapy reduces the number and length of treatments and speeds up recovery without harming nearby healthy tissue.

**Social workers.**
This team helps patients and their caregivers address non-clinical needs (e.g. finances, transportation and community resources).

**Emotional counseling, support groups and psychiatry.**
We aim to help patients and their caregivers increase their feeling of well-being, while reducing depression and anxiety.

**Financial services.**
Patients receive an estimate of costs and financial assistance is offered when applicable.

**Nutrition.**
Our certified registered dietitians provide nutrition assessment, education and recommendations.

**Massage therapy.**
Certified oncology therapists help with the physical and emotional impacts of cancer such as anxiety, pain relief, nausea control, fatigue and sleep.

**Rehabilitation.**
Programs address impairments that are associated with functional status and quality of life. These include: physical, occupational and speech therapies.

**Survivorship transitions.**
We help cancer survivors make the transition from active treatment to life following cancer.

**Infusion centers.**
We offer treatment at all of our locations seven days a week.
Mobilizing an entire team of experts to stand by your side.

Cancer is not a one-dimensional disease. Oftentimes, it takes a highly specialized team of physicians, research staff, genetic counselors and many others to deliver the proper treatment. That’s why UCHealth offers a number of multidisciplinary clinics throughout the Front Range, including 13 at the UCHealth University of Colorado Cancer Center - Anschutz Medical Campus. These clinics allow our team to rapidly evaluate each case, reduce time in diagnosis and quickly come to a consensus on an effective treatment plan.

This integrated approach leads to less appointments and faster treatments for you. Plus, with communication provided to your primary care physician throughout treatment, as well as an assigned nurse navigator specializing in your type of cancer, you’ll be informed every step of the way. This special liaison not only provides education and emotional support, but gives you timely access to all of the following specialists:

- Bladder
- Blood disorders and bone marrow transplants
- Brain
- Breast
- Esophageal and gastric
- GI
- GYN
- Head and neck
- Liver cancer
- Lung
- Melanoma
- Orthopedic
- Pancreas and biliary
- Pituitary
- Sarcoma
- Thyroid
- Urological
Patient Story: Peyton Linafelter, ovarian cancer survivor

Rising up against insurmountable odds.

In 2016, teenager Peyton Linafelter was diagnosed with stage IV ovarian cancer, a disease usually found in patients four times her age.

Aside from the fact that Peyton’s cancer had already spread to her lungs and liver, Dr. Saketh Guntupalli, MD, said Peyton’s case was one of the worst he had ever seen and that she may have been one of the youngest patients in the U.S. to be diagnosed with this disease.

With an unprecedented task before them, the oncology team at UCHealth University of Colorado Cancer Center came up with a plan to save Peyton’s life. After a seven-hour surgery to remove tumors and more than six rounds of chemotherapy, Peyton is officially cancer-free.

“Peyton approached this with a strength and a grace that I don’t see in women that are three times her age. And she’s really been an inspiration to all of us.”

- Dr. Guntupalli
Avid runner and fitness enthusiast Sara DeBord was diagnosed with breast cancer in February 2016. She underwent chemotherapy from March through June and in the middle of it all, ran the Boston Marathon. After a mastectomy in July, she began planning for radiation.

Wanting to maintain her everyday fitness, DeBord inquired about a fast-track to treatment. When her oncologist told her about a clinical trial nearby, she was quick to jump on board.

Normally, node-positive breast cancer patients undergo 25 to 33 radiation treatments over five to six weeks. With this new therapy, DeBord received half as many treatments, finishing two weeks early.

This was the first investigator-initiated trial to be made available for patients throughout UCHealth. Shorter courses of radiation have already been proven successful in the U.K. and Canada. With the results of this study, we could change the way women with breast cancer are treated across the U.S.
Patient Story: Phyllis Sanchez, breast cancer survivor

Taking the fight to chemotherapy hair loss.

Last May, cancer turned the tables on Phyllis Sanchez. Previously a mammographer in New Mexico, Sanchez found herself on the other end of the imaging machine with the diagnosis of stage 1 breast cancer. Now, she’s halfway through chemotherapy at UCHealth University of Colorado Cancer Center.

But breast cancer isn’t the only concern on Sanchez’s mind. She’s also fighting hair loss, the signature side effect of chemotherapy. Before her infusions, Sanchez dons The DigniCap®, a silicone head cover connected to an automated machine that delivers temperature-regulated coolant to her scalp.

It’s the first ever FDA-approved treatment for chemo-induced hair loss and could help countless patients protect their hair during treatment.

Sanchez said she wants to serve as an example for women who would avoid getting mammograms because they fear the circumstances they might uncover.
Improving the flow of the infusion experience.

UCHealth Cancer Care has experienced significant growth in the infusion centers. UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital Cancer Center saw 14 percent growth in the past two years. Plus, in April of 2016 alone, the UCHealth Cancer Center - Harmony Campus added five new providers, 1500 patients and increased infusion volumes by 70 percent in one day.

Recognizing that this kind of growth was unsustainable, the oncology leadership team partnered with an analytics firm (LeanTaas) to give patients more access to treatment with less wait times. The solution was a cloud-based tool using electronic medical records to help forecast treatment patterns. This resulted in better scheduling for both patients and staff.

The program was first implemented at the Metro Denver campus and within three months caused: a drop in overall wait times, increased daily scheduling, decreased staff overtime and improved patient satisfaction. When implemented in Northern Colorado, leadership saw the same efficiencies.

Thanks to the success of this program, UCHealth has earned the College of Healthcare Information Management’s 2016 Collaboration Award and has been invited to speak at a number of national conferences.
Research

Constantly studying to better serve you.
When participating in cancer trials, patients drive progress forward. These studies test new ways to prevent, detect, diagnose and treat a variety of cancer-related diseases. And because the UCHealth University of Colorado Cancer Center is one of the top cancer research institutes in the nation, our patients access clinical trials that may not be available at other regional institutions.

The ability to participate in clinical trials is crucial to developing excellence in health care. Aside from contributing to scientists’ knowledge and helping develop improved treatments, there are a lot of intrinsic benefits for patients as well. In fact, every study offered by UCHealth is reviewed by physicians to ensure there’s value for everyone involved. This includes access to advanced treatments, sometimes years before they’re widely available.

Most importantly, your involvement speeds up participant accrual rates and helps determine the efficacy of new treatments.

UCHealth is part of the Lead Academic Participating Sites with the National Clinical Trials Network at the following locations:

- UCHealth University of Colorado Cancer Center - Anschutz Medical Campus
- UCHealth Poudre Valley Hospital
- UCHealth Medical Center of the Rockies
- UCHealth Memorial Hospital
Registry Data

Total analytic volume, UCHealth Cancer Care 2010-2015.
### 2015 Top Primary Disease Sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NORTHERN COLORADO</th>
<th>COLORADO SPRINGS</th>
<th>METRO DENVER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BREAST</td>
<td><strong>303</strong></td>
<td>BREAST</td>
<td><strong>369</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROSTATE</td>
<td><strong>223</strong></td>
<td>LUNG BRONCHUS</td>
<td><strong>267</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUNG BRONCHUS</td>
<td><strong>162</strong></td>
<td>MELANOMA</td>
<td><strong>265</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLON EXC RECTUM</td>
<td><strong>84</strong></td>
<td>COLON EXC RECTUM</td>
<td><strong>256</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLADDER</td>
<td><strong>75</strong></td>
<td>THYROID</td>
<td><strong>154</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>