

2019 Public Reporting of Outcomes

At Decatur County Memorial Hospital, we are committed to serving our community and improving our quality of care. We serve our community through prevention and screening programs held throughout the year. We improve our quality of care through a comparison to national cancer benchmarks and publications. We continuously identify and act upon opportunities for improvement to bring quality care and resources to our community.

Cancer Prevention Programs

Skin Cancer Prevention Program

According to the Community Health Needs Assessment of 2016, skin cancer is the most prevalent cancer in Indiana females. In response to these results, the cancer program partnered with Spirit of Women to bring skin cancer prevention education to fifty females. The team coordinated the presentation of skin cancer prevention with Your Cancer Simplified representative, Jill Weberding, MPH, BSN, RN, OCN, whom presented recommendations based on evidenced-based guidelines through the American Cancer Society.

To measure the success of this program, pre and post surveys were completed by thirty-six attendees. After participating in the program, twenty-eight or 78% of attendees noted that they would change their behavior in the sun. Overall, this educational activity was a success, evidenced by twenty-eight women noting that they will change their behavior in the sun and twenty-nine indicating they will schedule an appointment to have their skin evaluated by a healthcare provider.

Cancer Screening Programs

Prostate Cancer Screening Program

According to the Community Health Needs Assessment, 53% of men ages 40 and older had not had a PSA lab drawn in the last 2 years. The assessment also noted that prostate cancer is the most prevalent among men, excluding skin cancer. To provide our community with a resource for the identified need, a health fair was held in November of 2019. 71 males had a PSA labs completed. Three of the PSA lab results were elevated, with one ending in a biopsy and malignant diagnosis. This program is considered a success based on the number of participants, elevated results, and malignant identification.

Lung Cancer Screening Program

DCMH's lung screening program has been in place for a few years. To increase utilization, the organization started a special pricing program in November of 2018. In addition to the special pricing, an initiative was started to increase utilization through education of the screening program to staff and community members. Since the special pricing program was initiated, 115 screening exams were completed with 3 resulting in a malignant diagnosis. This program is proving successful based on the increase in utilization and malignant findings.

Quality Improvement

Emergency Department Visits of Oncology Patients

SUMMARY: Based on an analysis of emergency department visits on oncology patients from 2018 and a researched-based root cause analysis, the program implemented a standardized oncology education protocol to decrease visits in the emergency department by on-treatment oncology patients.

IMPROVEMENT: A standardized oncology education protocol was developed by oncology staff that incorporated best practices for oncology education. This protocol was then followed to educate all new oncology patients initiating treatment after February 28th, 2019. The new protocol was used with 26 patients throughout 2019.

GOAL: The cancer committee recommended to set an improvement goal of 25% based on 2018's treatment-related emergency department visits by oncology patients. The goal is to have seven patients or less per quarter present to the emergency department with a treatment-related diagnosis.

RESULTS: The average number of patients presenting to the emergency department with a treatment-related diagnosis is an average of 50% less per quarter. The improvement surpassed the program's goal of a 25% decrease in these specific visits. The program improvement proved to be effective and is stable after three quarters. The department will continue to utilize the standardized oncology education protocol in the future to ensure quality patient education.