COMMUNITY ONCOLOGY ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES ONCOLOGY MEDICAL HOME PILOT PROGRAM LAUNCH

Ten Oncology Practices Begin the Accreditation Process in 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C. – February 24, 2015 – The Community Oncology Alliance (COA), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving access to community cancer care, announced the pilot of a national launch of an accreditation program for the Oncology Medical Home (OMH). This accreditation program is the result of a collaborative effort with a steering committee of cancer care organizations, advocacy organizations, insurers, and the Commission on Cancer (CoC). During the first quarter of this year, ten practices will pilot accreditation standards by demonstrating their compliance with standards and guidelines for this program. This includes an on-site survey by the Commission on Cancer.

The OMH model promotes standards and quality-centric processes that will promote a coordinated, efficient, patient-focused system for delivering quality care. These enhanced standards include objective, reportable continuously measured criteria that demonstrate improvement. COA developed the OMH program to address the twin needs for quality care and payment reform to decrease the cost of cancer care for patients and the healthcare system.

The participating practices are:
- Austin Cancer Center, Austin, Texas
- Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders, Ft. Worth, Texas
- Dayton Physicians Network, Dayton, Ohio
- Hematology Oncology Associates of Central New York, East Syracuse, N.Y.
- Maine Center for Cancer Medicine, Portland, Maine
- New Mexico Oncology Hematology, Albuquerque, N.M.
- Northwest Georgia Oncology Center, Marietta, Ga.
- Oncology Hematology Associates of Springfield, Springfield, Mo.
- Oncology Hematology Care, Cincinnati, Ohio
- Space Coast Cancer Center, Titusville, Fla.
“The OMH model provides enhanced patient communications, greater coordination amongst care providers, and increased responsiveness to patient needs,” said Daniel P. McKellar, MD, FACS, CoC chair and executive committee chair. “The five summary categories of care - patient engagement, expanded access, evidence-based medicine, comprehensive team-based care, and quality improvement are the basis for practice accreditation. These are the first practices making the transition to the OMH model which will provide an even higher quality of care with measureable and reportable improvement.”

“Together with the CoC, COA has developed comprehensive criteria for evaluation and patient-centered care standards,” said David Eagle, MD, Lake Norman Oncology, Mooresville, N.C., chair of the OMH steering committee. “Accreditation formalizes the processes and standardizes the measurement criteria for an OMH practice. This will enable a meaningful reduction in costs to patients and the healthcare system. These practices represent the future of cancer care delivery in this country.”

About Community Oncology Alliance (COA)
The Community Oncology Alliance (COA) is a non-profit organization dedicated solely to preserving and protecting access to community cancer care, where almost 70 percent of Americans with cancer are treated. COA has led community cancer clinics in navigating an increasingly challenging environment to provide efficiencies, patient advocacy, and proactive solutions to Congress and policy makers. COA members have testified before both chambers of Congress, authored cancer care demonstration projects, and been instrumental in the passage of oral cancer drug parity legislation, among many other initiatives. More information can be found at www.CommunityOncology.org.

About Oncology Medical Home (OMH)
COA is leading a multi-stakeholder group that is developing and implementing an Oncology Medical Home cancer care model and is advancing payment reform for cancer care. The OMH emphasizes measuring, benchmarking, and rewarding positive quality, value and outcomes in cancer care. A 10 practice OMH pilot program launched in January 2015 and represents community oncology’s dedication to pro-active payment reform. More information can be found at www.MedicalHomeOncology.org.

About the Commission on Cancer (CoC)
The Commission on Cancer (CoC), a Quality Program of the American College of Surgeons is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving survival and quality of life for cancer patients through standard-setting, prevention, research, education, and the monitoring of comprehensive quality care.

Established by the American College of Surgeons (ACoS) in 1922, the multidisciplinary CoC establishes standards to ensure quality, multidisciplinary, and comprehensive cancer care delivery in health care settings; conducts surveys in health care settings to assess compliance with those standards; collects standardized data from CoC-accredited health care settings to measure cancer care quality; uses data to monitor treatment patterns and outcomes and enhance cancer control and clinical surveillance activities; and develops
effective educational interventions to improve cancer prevention, early detection, cancer care delivery, and outcomes in health care settings.

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