



What's new at Northside

Northside joins National Cancer Institute Program to enhance cancer research and care at community hospitals

Northside Hospital is among 14 new sites chosen by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), part of the National Institutes of Health, to join a national network of community cancer centers offering expanded research opportunities and state-of-the-art cancer care. Northside was the only new hospital added in the southeastern United States.

This latest recognition of Northside Hospital's Cancer Care Program is a testament to the reputation and strengths of Northside's program in the Southeast and in the United States. For more than a decade, Northside's Cancer Care Program has been leading the way in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of women's cancers, leukemia and other blood diseases, prostate cancer and others. Northside is delighted to become part of this network and is fully committed to implementing all the program components set forth by the NCI for participating centers.

Distinguishing features of Northside's Cancer Care Program include:

- Largest community cancer program in Georgia with regional leadership in women's oncology, bone marrow transplant (BMT) and prostate cancer care
- Only comprehensive, community BMT program in Georgia, ranking in top 15 percent in the United States
- Diagnoses and/or treats more cases of breast cancer than any other hospital in the Southeast
- Numerous recognitions, including Outstanding Achievement Award from the American College of Surgeons and the Foundation of Accreditation of Cellular Therapies accreditation with no clinical deficiencies

- Comprehensive clinical research program, including collaborative relationships with Johns Hopkins and the Georgia Institute of Technology
 - Strong track record in community outreach
- The NCI Community Cancer Centers Program (NCCCP) is using \$40 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to expand its number of community hospital-based sites from 16 to 30.

The NCCCP is designed to create new research opportunities across the cancer continuum from screening and treatment to follow-up care, with an emphasis on minority and underserved populations. Expanding the network provides access to more patients in community cancer centers to support these research efforts.

In addition, the program is studying ways for patients to have access to the latest, evidence-based care close to where they live. For a variety of reasons, many cancer patients cannot commute to major academic medical centers for treatment. In fact, 85 percent of patients are diagnosed and receive at least their first course of treatment at a community hospital.

NCCCP Centers are addressing ways to reduce healthcare disparities, improve access to clinical trials, improve overall quality of care, promote an infrastructure to collect high-quality biospecimens, such as blood and tissue samples for research, and link with national computer networks that support research. The Centers also work to improve survivorship, palliative care services and patient advocacy.

