



Cancer Center of Excellence Award

Annual Report

December 15, 2020

**Ron DeSantis
Governor**

**Scott Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General**

**2020 Cancer Center of Excellence Annual Report
Table of Contents**

Cancer Center of Excellence Award Program Overview	3
Application and Review Process	3
Application Cycle	4

Cancer Center of Excellence Award Program Overview

The designation of a hospital, treatment center, or other organization as a Cancer Center of Excellence is intended to recognize organizations that demonstrate excellence in patient-centered coordinated care for persons undergoing cancer treatment and therapy in Florida. The goals of the Cancer Center of Excellence Award (section 381.925, Florida Statutes) are to encourage excellence in cancer care in Florida, attract and retain the best cancer care professionals to the state, and help Florida organizations be recognized nationally as a preferred destination for quality cancer care. Before each application cycle, the Florida Department of Health (Department) contacts research and treatment facilities across the state via email to provide information about the award and the requirements.

By December 15 of each year, the Department reports the following information to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as required by Florida Statutes:

- The number of applications received,
- The number of award recipients by application cycle,
- A list of award recipients, and
- Recommendations to strengthen the program.

Application and Review Process

Organizations seeking designation as a Cancer Center of Excellence submit an application and then undergo a review process approved by the Joint Committee. The application and review process involve the following steps:

- Organizations submit applications during one of the two application cycles offered each year.
- Staff review applications to confirm information is sufficient for evaluators. Then, evaluators determine whether the organization meets performance measures.
- A team of five independent evaluators review written materials. Evaluators are vetted and determined to be free from conflicts of interest.
- Organizations may be asked to submit revised applications with additional information.
- If a site visit is recommended during the review process, two evaluators will participate in the site visit.
- Applicants are provided a draft evaluation report and respond with corrections and improvement plans. No onsite visits were conducted in 2020 due to COVID-19.
- Each member of the evaluation team reviews the draft evaluation report, the

organization's response if applicable, and reports to the State Surgeon General those applicants that achieved or exceeded performance measures and met all requirements of the rating system approved by the Joint Committee.

- The State Surgeon General notifies the Governor regarding providers that are eligible to receive designation as a Cancer Center of Excellence.

Application Cycle

2020

The Department conducted two application cycles in the spring and fall of 2020. In spring 2020, there were two new applications. These applications were reviewed by peer reviewers and recommendations were developed. **Currently, the designation determination is with Executive Leadership and will be reviewed as requested. State Surgeon General Scott Rivkees, MD, will be in contact with Governor Ron DeSantis for a decision on designation. Feedback will be provided to the applicants.** There were no applications received in fall 2020.

Additionally, 2020 marks the re-designation period. The Joint Committee, which is a committee with members from the Florida Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council and the Florida Biomedical Research Advisory Council, met in fall 2019 and developed re-designation criteria for existing Cancer Centers of Excellence. This revised criteria for re-designation was used for the 2020 re-designation application process.

The current Cancer Centers of Excellence are:

- H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute
- Mayo Clinic Florida
- University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
- University of Florida Health Cancer Center, which includes Shands Hospital and Proton Therapy Institute, and Orlando Health's Orlando Regional Medical Center