



Cancer Center of Excellence Award

Annual Report

December 15, 2015

Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
Surgeon General and Secretary of Health

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 program (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.

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 Statute:

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

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, is required to meet every three years. They are scheduled to meet in fall 2016. There were no recommendations made by the Joint Committee this year.

2014 Award Recipients

Since the 2014 Annual Report, four institutions were designated as a Cancer Center of Excellence during the first of two statutorily required application cycles. The organizations have demonstrated excellence in patient-centered coordinated care for persons undergoing cancer treatment and therapy in Florida and have exceeded service standards and excelled in providing quality, comprehensive, and patient-coordinated care:

- H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute
 - The organization is in process of having an accredited Institutional Review Board, which is required by the Joint Committee.

- 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
 - The organization is in process of having an accredited IRB, which is required by the Joint Committee.

Additional 2014 Applicants

In the second cycle of 2014, four organizations submitted applications between July 1, 2014 and August 22, 2014:

- Cleveland Clinic Florida

Status: Based on the review of applications, supporting documentation, and site visit reports, all performance measures were not met. To achieve the Cancer Center of Excellence designation, the organizations must meet all of the rigorous performance measures.
- Florida Hospital Cancer Institute

Status: Based on the review of applications, supporting documentation, and site visit reports, all performance measures were not met. To achieve the Cancer Center of Excellence designation, the organizations must meet all of the rigorous performance measures.
- JKF Medical Center Limited Partnership

Status: In the process of submitting additional documentation for review and further consideration.
- Martin Memorial Medical Center

Status: In the process of submitting additional documentation for review and further consideration.

All organizations have received a staff report describing areas where additional information is needed and are working on revising their applications, written materials, or making changes in their program to meet performance measures.

2015 Application Cycles

The Department conducted two application cycles in 2015, the first cycle from February 9, 2015 to March 27, 2015 and the second cycle from July 1, 2015 to August 21, 2015. There were no applications submitted for either of these cycles.

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 involves 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. These evaluators determine whether the organization meets performance measures.
- Organizations may be asked to submit revised applications with additional information.
- A team of five independent evaluators review written materials. Evaluators are vetted and determined to be free from conflicts of interest.
- 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, including observations made during the site visit if applicable, and are allowed to respond with corrections and improvement plans, if needed.
- 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.

Statutory Authority

381.925 Florida Statutes

Cancer Center of Excellence Award

(1) The Legislature intends to recognize hospitals, treatment centers, and other providers in this state which demonstrate excellence in patient-centered coordinated care for persons undergoing cancer treatment and therapy in this state. The goal of this program is to encourage excellence in cancer care in this state, attract and retain the best cancer care providers to the state, and help Florida providers be recognized nationally as a preferred destination for quality cancer care. The Cancer Center of Excellence Award will recognize providers that exceed service standards and excel in providing quality, comprehensive, and patient-centered coordinated care.

(2) The Florida Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council, established in s. 1004.435, and the Biomedical Research Advisory Council, established in s. 215.5602, shall select seven members and six members, respectively, to form a joint committee.

(a) The joint committee, consisting of 13 members, shall:

1. By January 1, 2014, develop rigorous performance measures, a rating system, and a rating standard that must be achieved to document and distinguish a cancer center that excels in providing quality, comprehensive, and patient-centered coordinated care.
2. Review at least every 3 years and revise, if applicable, the performance measures, rating system, and rating standard to ensure providers are continually enhancing their programs to reflect best practices and advances in cancer treatment and care from the perspective of quality, comprehensive, and patient-centered coordinated care.
3. Submit its proposed performance measures, rating system, and rating standard to the Florida Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council and the Biomedical Research Advisory Council to be approved by both councils prior to the evaluation of any provider under such criteria.

(b) The criteria established by the joint committee must require, at a minimum, that each hospital, treatment center, or other provider:

1. Maintain a license in good standing in this state which authorizes health care services to be provided.
2. Be accredited by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons.

3. Actively participate in at least one regional cancer control collaborative that is operating pursuant to the Florida Comprehensive Cancer Control Program's cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program.

4. Demonstrate excellence in and dissemination of scientifically rigorous cancer research.

5. Integrate training and education of biomedical researchers and health care professionals.

6. Meet enhanced cancer care coordination standards which, at a minimum, focus on:

a. Coordination of care by cancer specialists and nursing and allied health professionals.

b. Psychosocial assessment and services.

c. Suitable and timely referrals and follow up.

d. Providing accurate and complete information on treatment options, including clinical trials, which consider each person's needs, preferences, and resources, whether provided by that center or available through other health care providers.

e. Participation in a comprehensive network of cancer specialists of multiple disciplines, which enables the patient to consult with a variety of experts to examine treatment alternatives.

f. Family services and support.

g. Aftercare and survivor services.

h. Patient and family satisfaction survey results.

(c) The members of the joint committee shall serve without compensation but may receive reimbursement as provided in s. 112.061 for travel and other necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

(d) The Department of Health shall provide such staff, information, and other assistance as is reasonably necessary to assist the joint committee in carrying out its responsibilities.

(3)(a) A provider may apply to the Department of Health for a Cancer Center of Excellence Award. The joint committee must develop an application form to be used by the Department of Health that requires, among other things, submission of documentation by the provider which demonstrates that the criteria in subsection (2) have been met.

(b) After January 1, 2014, the Department of Health shall annually conduct two application cycles. The applications are not applications for licensure; the grant of the award by the State Surgeon General is not final agency action; and the Cancer Center of Excellence Award program is not subject to the provisions of chapter 120.

(4)(a) The State Surgeon General shall appoint a team of independent evaluators to assess applicants to determine eligibility for the award. An application is to be evaluated independently

of any other application. The team shall consist of five evaluators to be selected, in any combination, from the following:

1. No more than five health care practitioners or health care facilities not licensed in this state which provide health care services involving cancer diagnoses or treatment;
2. No more than three members from the Florida Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council;
3. No more than two members from the Biomedical Research and Advisory Council; and
4. No more than one layperson who has experience as a cancer patient or as a family member of a cancer patient if that person or his or her family member did not receive care from the applicant or providers being evaluated.

(b) Each evaluator must be independent and free of any conflict of interest with respect to a health care provider or facility licensed in this state. Each person selected to participate on the evaluation team must sign a conflict of interest attestation before being appointed to the evaluation team.

(5)(a) Two evaluation team members may, as necessary, conduct an onsite evaluation to verify submitted application documentation.

(b) Each member on the evaluation team shall report to the State Surgeon General those applicants that achieved or exceeded the required score based on the rating system developed in subsection (2) which demonstrates the cancer center excels in providing quality, comprehensive, and patient-centered coordinated care.

(6) The State Surgeon General shall notify the Governor regarding the providers that are eligible to receive the Cancer Center of Excellence Award.

(7) The award shall be recognized for a period of 3 years after the date of the award. A provider may reapply for subsequent awards.

(8) A provider that receives a Cancer Center of Excellence Award may use the designation in its advertising and marketing for up to 3 years after the date of the award. In addition, a provider that receives a Cancer Center of Excellence Award may be granted, for 3 years after the date of the award, a preference in competitive solicitations related to cancer care or research undertaken by a state agency or state university.

(9) The State Surgeon General shall report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 31, 2014, the status of implementing the Cancer Center of Excellence Award program, and by December 15 annually thereafter, the number of applications received, the number of award recipients by application cycle, a list of award recipients, and recommendations to strengthen the program.

(10) The Department of Health shall adopt necessary rules related to the application cycles and submission of the application form.