

TREATMENT

Treatment Goal: Treat cancer with appropriate, quality care

Once cancer is diagnosed, prompt and thorough treatment is essential for prolonging the patient's survival and improving the patient's quality of life. As varied as the individual, cancer treatment can entail surgery, radiation, chemotherapy and any combination thereof. Treatments and rehabilitation strategies have improved over the years and clinical trials may offer the latest advancements and potentially more effective treatment options.

Cancer patients may need assistance understanding treatment options available to them, and patient navigators can help with this process. (For more information on patient navigators, see the section on early detection and diagnosis.) The National Comprehensive Cancer Network offers Guidelines for Patients™ to help patients with cancer speak with their oncologists about their best treatment options. These guidelines contain reader-friendly information on state of the art cancer treatment information. Eight guidelines are available to cancer patients for the following types of cancer: breast, lung, ovarian, prostate, chronic myelogenous leukemia, malignant pleural mesothelioma, melanoma, and multiple myeloma. The National Cancer Institute also offers treatment information geared toward patients, as well as information on clinical trials.

Quality, compassionate care for people facing a serious illness is an essential component of treatment. Palliative care is a team-oriented approach to providing this care. This approach includes expert medical care, pain management, and emotional and spiritual support expressly tailored to the patient's needs and wishes. Support is provided to the patient's loved ones as well. The locations of physicians and nurses who are certified as providers of hospice and palliative services are illustrated on the Kansas map included.

Key Accomplishments

- KCP members worked diligently to build relationships with cancer centers and clinics across the state. KCP also established relationships with 13 Kansas hospitals accredited by the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer.
- The University of Kansas Cancer Center applied for designation by the National Cancer Institute, the gold standard for cancer program, in recognition of innovative research and excellence in patient care.
- Between 2006 and 2010, the State of Kansas invested \$5 million per year to promote this effort and build top notch research and treatment facilities for Kansas cancer patients.

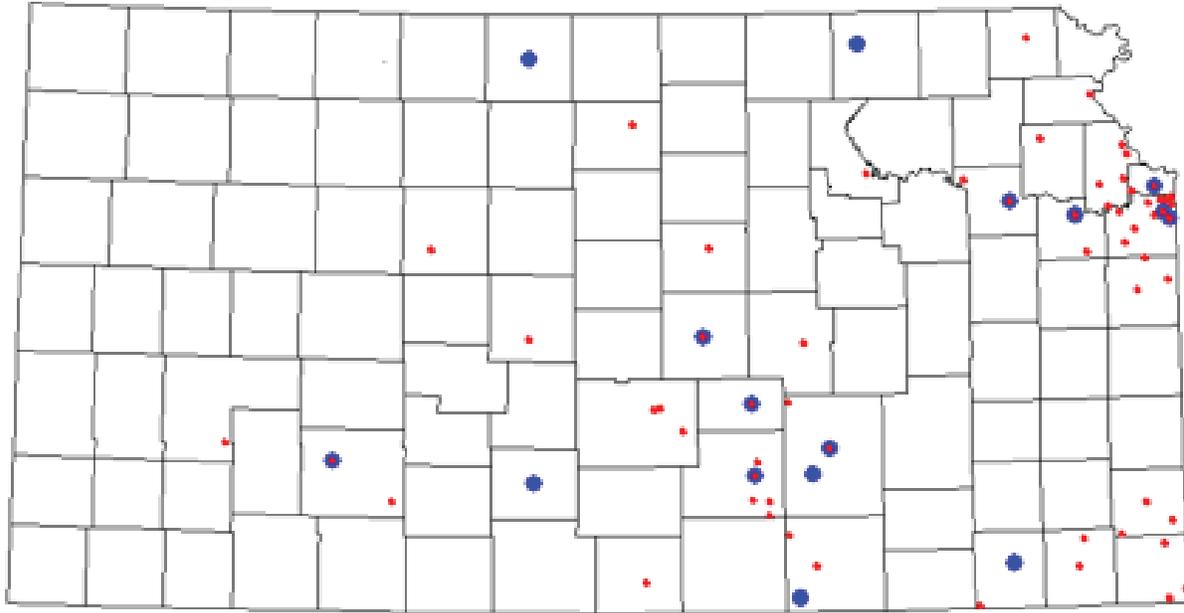
Palliative Care

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization describes palliative care:

"Palliative care extends the principles of hospice care to a broader population that could benefit from receiving this type of care earlier in their illness or disease process. No specific therapy is excluded from consideration. An individual's needs must be continually assessed and treatment options should be explored and evaluated in the context of the individual's values and symptoms. Palliative care, ideally, would segue into hospice care as the illness progresses."

(See Early Detection and Diagnosis for description of Patient Navigation; See Survivorship and Quality of Life for description of hospice care)

Palliative Care Providers, Kansas, 2011



● Physician(s) ● Nurse(s)

Source: American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.
Source: National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses.

- *See Early Detection & Diagnosis for objective on Patient Navigation*
- *See Survivorship & Quality of Life for objective on hospice*

Treatment Objective: Palliative Care

1. Increase access to palliative care services during and after treatment

Measure	Baseline	Five Year Target
Number and geographic dispersion of physicians in Kansas who are members of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine and/or are certified in the sub-specialty, either by one of the ten co-sponsoring boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties or the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine	33 (2011 The American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine)	To be determined
Number and geographic dispersion of nurses in Kansas are Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurses	136 (2011 National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses)	To be determined

Strategies

1a. Provide continuing education to health care practitioners, including primary care providers, to increase knowledge and practice of palliative care during and after treatment.

Treatment Objective: Clinical Trials

2. Increase participation in cancer treatment clinical trials

Measure	Baseline	Five Year Target
Percent of Kansas adults aged 18 years and older had a health care provider ever talk to them about participating in a clinical trial	3.7% (2007 BRFSS)	4%
Among those who were ever told by a doctor that they have cancer and whose health care provider ever talked to them about participating in a clinical trial, the percent of adults aged 18 years and older enrolled in a cancer clinical trial managed by their Kansas health care provider	32.5% (2007 BRFSS)	34%

Strategies

- 2a. Convene representatives of all Kansas facilities offering cancer treatment trials to explore opportunities for collaboration regarding effective promotion, recruitment and retention strategies.
- 2b. Identify strategies to use national media resources to increase awareness of participation in cancer prevention and treatment trials and resources for accessing trials available in Kansas.
- 2c. Advocate for statewide policy that would expand self-funded insurance coverage to include treatment to patients enrolled in cancer clinical trials.
- 2d. Incorporate steps to target identified disparate populations (age, income, disability, rural-urban location, and race or ethnic status) when implementing recommended strategies.



