

For Immediate Release

MARY PAT CAPUTO
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS
860-585-3524

BRISTOL HOSPITAL CANCER CARE CENTER APPROVED WITH COMMENDATION BY COMMISSION ON CANCER

(Bristol, CT, 3/21/08) – The Commission on Cancer (CoC) of the American College of Surgeons (ACoS) has granted **Three-Year Approval with Commendation** to Bristol Hospital's Cancer Care Center.

A cancer care facility receives a three-year approval with Commendation following the on-site evaluation by a physician surveyor during which the facility demonstrates a Commendation level of compliance with one or more standards that represents the full scope of the cancer program (clinical services, cancer committee leadership, cancer data management, research, community outreach, and quality improvement.) In addition, a facility receives a compliance rating for all other standards.

Receiving care at a Commission on Cancer-approved cancer program ensures that a patient will have access to:

- Comprehensive care, including a range of state-of-the-art services and equipment
- A multidisciplinary, team approach to coordinate the best treatment options
- Information about ongoing clinical trials and new treatment options
- Access to cancer-related information, education, and support
- A cancer registry that collects data on type and stage of cancers and treatment results and offers lifelong patient follow-up
- Ongoing monitoring and improvement of care

And, most importantly,

- Quality care close to home.

"We're extremely proud to have been recognized by the ACoS," said David Dobrzanski, MD, PhD, MBA, Medical Director of the Bristol Hospital Cancer Care Center. "This accreditation highlights the incredibly high level of care our physicians and staff are able to offer patients in our community. It's another sign that you don't have to travel far to get the best care. It's available right here in Bristol."

Established in 1922 by the American College of Surgeons, the CoC is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving survival rates and quality of life for cancer patients through standard-setting, prevention, research, education, and the monitoring of comprehensive, quality care. Its membership includes Fellows of the American College of Surgeons and 42 national organizations that reflect the full spectrum of cancer care.

The core functions of the CoC include setting standards for quality of multidisciplinary cancer patient care; surveying facilities to evaluate compliance with the 35 CoC standards; collecting standardized and quality data from approved facilities; and using the data to develop effective educational interventions for improved cancer care outcomes at the national, state and local level.

Quality is a team effort," said Bristol Hospital President Kurt A. Barwis, FACHE, CPA. "Our physicians, nurses, technicians and clinical staff are committed to providing each patient the highest standard of clinical excellence in cancer care. We are proud to be recognized for our commitment."

"Our new Cancer Care Center will bring an enhanced level of care to our community," Dr. Dobrzanski said. "We will continue to make strides in the fight against cancer by offering innovative treatment options and focusing on clinical research."



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P. O. Box 977, Brewster Road, Bristol, Connecticut 06011-0977

www.bristolhospital.org