

## Practice Guidelines in Oncology

MVP Health Care®, as part of its continuing Quality Improvement Program, has adopted the National Comprehensive Cancer Network’s (NCCN) Practice Guidelines in Oncology™ for the treatment and management of cancer. The National Comprehensive Cancer Network is a not-for-profit alliance of thirty-two of the world’s leading cancer centers who work together to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of cancer care.

### Statistics – Morbidity & Mortality

- Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States.
- Due to earlier diagnoses and improvements in cancer treatment, the five-year relative survival rate has increased substantially from the early 1960s to 2015, from 39% to 70% among Whites and from 27% to 65% among Blacks, respectively.
- There are approximately 2 million new cases of cancer in the U.S. each year.
- The age-adjusted cancer death rate rose during most of the 20th century because of the smoking epidemic but has dropped from its peak in 1991 by 34% as of 2022 because of reductions in smoking, advances in treatment, and early detection for some cancers.
- The deadliest cancers (listed in descending order according to estimated deaths in 2022) are lung and bronchus, breast, prostate, colorectal, and pancreas.
- The most common cancers (listed in descending order according to estimated new cases in 2025) are breast cancer, prostate cancer, lung and bronchus cancer, colon and rectum cancer, uterine corpus, bladder cancer, melanoma of the skin, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, kidney and renal pelvis cancer, leukemia, pancreatic cancer, thyroid cancer and liver cancer.
- Prostate, lung and colorectal cancers account for an estimated 48% of all cancers newly diagnosed in men in 2024. For women, the three most common cancers are breast, lung and colorectal, and they account for an estimated 51% of all new cancer diagnoses in women in 2020.
- Invasive female breast cancer incidence has been increasing since the mid-2000s from 2012 to 2021 the rate has increased by 1% per year overall.
- In 2025, there is an estimated 9,550 children (ages 0 to 14 years) and 5,140 adolescents (ages 15-19 years) will be diagnosed with cancer, and 1,050 children and 600 adolescents will die from the disease. Cancer is the leading disease-related cause of death among both children and adolescents.
- Black men (along with American Indian/Alaska Native men) have the highest overall cancer mortality rate (208 deaths per 100,000), 16% higher than White men (179 deaths per 100,000).

- Breast cancer mortality in Black women is about 40% higher than White women despite lower incidence, a disparity that has remained consistent since the mid-2000s and is a reversal of lower mortality than White women in 1975.
- Compared to (non-Hispanic) White people, Hispanic people have lower incidence for most common cancers (female breast, colorectum, lung, and prostate), but 36% higher incidence of cervical cancer and almost 2 times higher incidence of stomach and liver cancers, all of which are largely preventable.
- American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) men and women combined have the highest cancer incidence and mortality of any population partly because of the high rates in women.
- Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) people have liver and stomach cancer rates that are about 50%-70% higher than those in White individuals, and even higher for Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander people.
- Estimated national expenditures for cancer care in the United States in 2020 were \$208.9 billion, which is likely an underestimate because it does not account for the growing cost of treatments. Cancer-related costs to patients are estimated at \$21.1 billion, including \$16.2 billion in total out-of-pocket costs and \$4.9 billion in patient time costs (travel to/from treatment and waiting for and receiving care).
- As of January 2022, there were an estimated 18 million cancer survivors in the United States. The number of cancer survivors is projected to increase to 22.5 million by 2032.
- Nearly half of cancer deaths in the US can be attributed to potentially modifiable behavioral risk factors, the most important of which are tobacco use, excess body weight, and alcohol consumption. Tobacco use remains the most significant preventable cause of cancer in the US.

An estimated 40 out of 100 men and 39 out of 100 women will develop cancer during their lifetime. The rate of new cases of cancer (cancer incidence) is 442.4 per 100,000 people per year (based on 2013–2017 cases).

**Sources:** American Cancer Society. *Cancer Facts & Figures (2023)*. Atlanta: American Cancer Society (2023). Available: <https://www.cancer.org/research/cancer-facts-statistics.html>

<https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/understanding/statistics>

*NIH National cancer institute Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results Program [Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program \(cancer.gov\)](https://www.cancer.gov)*

### Guidelines Summaries

Providers may access the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology™ online at [www.nccn.org](http://www.nccn.org). On the NCCN home page, follow the “Login/Register” link and complete the brief registration process (free of charge). Numerous guidelines for the treatment and

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2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024



management of cancer are available by clicking on the link, **NCCN guidelines for Treatment of Cancer by Site**. Also available under the "NCCN Guidelines®" link are several pocket guidelines available free of charge.

In conjunction with these guidelines, MVP Health Care offers Case Management for members in active treatment for cancer. If you would like to refer one of your patients to the Case Management program, please call the Health Care Operations Department at **866-942-7966**.

This guideline is not intended to replace the role of clinical judgment by the physician in the management of this, or any other disease entity. It is an educational guideline to assist in the delivery of good medical care. All treatment decisions are ultimately up to the physician. Where medication recommendations are made, please refer to each health plan's formulary for coverage considerations.

MVP Health Care reviews its clinical guidelines annually. The review process is also initiated when new scientific evidence or national standards are published. Practitioners are alerted via the web site and by written notices from the plan via fax or newsletter. A hard copy of the clinical guideline can be requested by calling the MVP Quality Improvement Department at **800-777-4793**.