

Summa Health Cancer Institute

# 2024 OUTCOMES REPORT



[summahealth.org/cancer](https://summahealth.org/cancer)

# A message from leadership

We are pleased to present the 2024 Annual Outcomes report for Summa Health Cancer Institute. We made significant strides in advancing care and support for our cancer patients.

In 2024 the Summa Health Cancer Institute expanded its services to the Stow-Kent region. Both infusion services and an oncology practice offered more services to members of the community. In addition, Summa Health participated in the Oncology Medical Home Plus (OMH+) Program through Anthem. This program provides enhanced care coordination utilizing guidelines and clinical pathways that support the healthcare team in providing high quality cancer care.

The Institute conducted a review of small cell lung cases and determined that industry standards were met in 100% of cases. Also, the Research team in the Cancer Institute had a stellar 2024, as evidenced by the efforts of one investigator in gynecologic oncology. Read more in the following pages regarding all of these stories.

Our oncology team is deeply committed to offering the highest standard of cancer care in the region. We understand the challenges faced by patients and their families, and we are here to provide comprehensive support throughout their journey. By fostering a compassionate and nurturing environment, we aim to enhance their experience and work tirelessly towards achieving a future free from cancer.

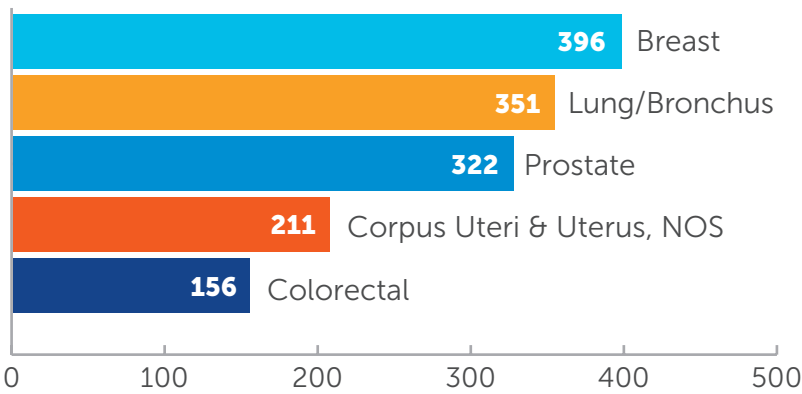
**Sameer Mahesh, M.D.**

Medical Director, Summa Health Cancer Institute  
The Vincent and Nancy DiGirolamo Chair in Oncology



# 2024 Key Statistics

## Top 5 Cancer Sites





# Primary Cancer Sites

Primary Site	Class	Sex	
	Analytic	Male	Female
<b>All sites</b>	<b>2,383</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>1,343</b>
<b>Oral Cavity &amp; Pharynx</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>16</b>
Lip	2	2	0
Tongue	19	16	3
Salivary Glands	5	3	2
Floor of Mouth	1	0	1
Gum & Other Mouth	4	2	2
Nasopharynx	2	2	0
Tonsil	13	7	6
Oropharynx	2	1	1
Hypopharynx	2	1	1
Other Oral Cavity & Pharynx	1	1	0
<b>Digestive System</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>163</b>
Esophagus	28	18	10
Stomach	39	21	18
Small Intestine	19	8	11
Colon	95	49	46
Rectum/Rectosigmoid	61	39	22
Anus/Anal Canal/Anorectum	17	4	13
Liver/Intrahepatic Bile Duct	22	16	6
Gallbladder	4	2	2
Other Biliary	9	6	3
Pancreas	58	29	29
Retroperitoneum	2	1	1
Peritoneum, Omentum & Mesentery	2	1	1
Other Digestive Organs	1	0	1
<b>Respiratory System</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>186</b>
Nose, Nasal Cavity & Middle Ear	1	0	1
Larynx	16	9	7
Lung/Bronchus	351	173	178
<b>Bones/Joints</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Soft Tissue</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Skin</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>9</b>
Melanoma	30	22	8
Other Non-Epithelial Skin	2	1	1
<b>Breast</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>390</b>
<b>Female Genital System</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>314</b>
Cervix Uteri	25	0	25
Corpus & Uterus, NOS	211	0	211
Ovary	42	0	42
Vagina	2	0	2
Vulva	23	0	23
Other Female Genital Organs	11	0	11
<b>Male Genital System</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>0</b>
Prostate	322	322	0
Testis	12	12	0
Penis	2	2	0
<b>Urinary System</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>68</b>
Urinary Bladder	98	68	30
Kidney/Renal Pelvis	97	65	32
Ureter	6	3	3
Other Urinary Organs	9	6	3
<b>Brain &amp; CNS</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>34</b>
Brain	13	7	6
Cranial Nerves Other Nervous System	33	5	28
<b>Endocrine System</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>64</b>
Thyroid	67	13	54
Other Endocrine	16	6	10
<b>Lymphoma</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>45</b>
Hodgkin Lymphoma	16	6	10
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	66	31	35
<b>Blood &amp; Bone Marrow</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>29</b>
Leukemia	19	13	6
Myeloma	28	14	14
Other Blood & Bone Marrow	15	6	9
<b>Mesothelioma</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Unknown Primary</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>

# Awards and Accreditations

## 2024 Care Beyond Awards



Kacie Jones, RN



Jessica Kachovec, RN



Amy Miller



Jennifer Montgomery, RN



Dawn Wilhelm, RN

## 2024 Daisy Award Winners



Alicia Brindel, RN



Bryce Hamburger, RN



Nancy Hayden, RN

## Cancer Program

### American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer

The Oncology Program at Summa Health is fully accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC). The program includes our three cancer centers – the Summa Health Jean and Milton Cooper Pavilion on the campus of Summa Health System – Akron Campus, Summa Health Parkview Pavilion at Summa Health System – Barberton Campus and Summa Health Medina Medical Center.



## Radiation Oncology

### American College of Radiology

Summa Health has earned the prestigious American College of Radiology (ACR) accreditation in radiation oncology. This places Summa Health amongst a select group of cancer care providers nationwide.



## Medical Oncology

### The Quality Oncology Practice Initiative

Summa Health is one of a few cancer centers in Ohio to meet quality measures for medical oncology from the American Society of Clinical Oncology's Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI). QOPI is an oncologist-led, practice-based quality improvement program, whose goal is to promote excellence in cancer care by helping practices create a culture of self-examination and improvement.



## Breast Imaging

### American College of Radiology

The Summa Health Breast Imaging Centers at Summa Health System – Akron and Barberton Campuses were designated a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence (BICOE) by the American College of Radiology (ACR).



## Breast Cancer Program

### National Accreditation Program for Breast Cancers

The Summa Health Breast Program at Summa Health System – Akron and Barberton Campuses has been granted a three-year/full accreditation designation by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), a program administered by the American College of Surgeons.

## Lung Screening

### Lung Cancer Screening Center of Excellence

Summa Health Lung Imaging Center was named a Screening Center of Excellence by the Lung Cancer Alliance for the ongoing commitment to responsible lung cancer screening.



## Rectal Cancer Program

### National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer

Summa Health Cancer Institute earned a three-year accreditation from the National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer (NAPRC), a quality program of the American College of Surgeons.



# Membership

## NRG Oncology

NRG Oncology is a non-profit research organization formed to conduct oncologic clinical research and to broadly disseminate study results for informing clinical decision-making and healthcare policy. NRG Oncology seeks to improve the lives of cancer patients by conducting practice-changing multi-institutional clinical and translational research with emphases on gender-specific malignancies including gynecologic, breast and prostate cancers and on localized or locally advanced cancers of all types.



# Expanded Services in Stow-Kent

In late 2023 and early 2024, the Summa Health Cancer Institute expanded its oncology service offerings at the Summa Health Stow-Kent Medical Center. This expansion granted local residents access to hematology and medical oncology services provided by Nicholas Pleat, D.O., and Greg Manson, M.D. The positive patient response led to an increase in availability from two days per week to four days per week.

In addition, hematology and oncology infusions became available Wednesday through Friday, which has expanded to five days a week in 2025.

#### These infusions include:

- Chemotherapy
- Immunotherapy
- Bladder instillations for cancer treatment
- Therapeutic phlebotomy
- Iron replacement
- Hydration
- Implanted port maintenance and more
- Blood transfusions (added October 2024)



DR. PLEAT

DR. MANSON



These enhancements broaden the already comprehensive array of infusion services formerly offered at the Stow-Kent Medical Center. Infusion therapy may be administered to patients requiring either single or continuous IV treatment for a range of acute and chronic medical conditions.

#### These therapies include:

- Infusion pharmacy services for acute and chronic conditions
- Clinical consulting and therapeutic monitoring of drug therapies when appropriate including: drug interactions, laboratory reports and pharmacokinetics
- Injection therapies
- Infusion therapies
- Implanted port accessing, flushing and care
- PICC line care and dressing changes

A new onsite pharmacy prepares and mixes all the medications for the infusion center. Having all services at one location—provider, pharmacy, infusion—makes it very convenient for patients to receive quality, coordinated care.

- 1,097** 2024 Infusion Center Total Treatments  
(Including 36 new chemotherapy patient starts)
- 229** 2024 Hematology/Oncology New Patient Visits
- 693** 2024 Hematology/Oncology Follow-up Visits



# Improving Patient Care through Shared Savings Program

In our continuous efforts to innovate and improve patient care, since early 2023, the Summa Health Cancer Institute has integrated Anthem's Oncology Medical Home Plus (OMH+) program into our operations.

The OMH+ program is a value-based care initiative designed to improve the quality and coordination of cancer treatment while controlling costs. It focuses on delivering patient-centered care through enhanced care coordination, shared decision-making and evidence-based medicine, ultimately aiming to reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and emergency room visits.

Summa Health is a participant in this model for Anthem members enrolled in both commercial and Medicare Advantage plans.

Outcomes are assessed across several key factors, including:

- **Comprehensive Care:** Developing evidence-based care plans with an emphasis on coordinated care among all team members and effective medication management.
- **Transitions of Care:** Providing appropriate education, resources and referrals to members at every stage of cancer, from diagnosis through end-of-life care.
- **Care Coordination:** Delivering effective patient navigation by collaborating with specialists, consultants and community partners to guide members seamlessly throughout their care journey.
- **Enhanced Access:** Facilitating same-day access for urgent needs and ensuring timely ongoing clinical care, including patient education and home visits.
- **Drug Therapy:** Ensuring oncology treatments are prepared and administered safely and appropriately by licensed professionals.
- **Performance Improvement:** Committing to the advancement of the quality of oncology care through continuous performance improvement initiatives.



## Tracked Quality Measures

Tracked measures include Cancer Care Quality Program (CCQP) pathway adherence; anti-emetic use for emetogenic risk; avoidable hospital admissions; ED visits within 30 days of outpatient chemotherapy; and chemotherapy given in the last 14 days of life. Additional metrics are multiple ED visits; ICU use at end of life; and hospice care in the final 14 days of life.

Summa Health's participation in this model demonstrates a commitment to advancing oncology practices and delivering exceptional care to Anthem members, both in commercial and Medicare Advantage plans. It supports Summa Health's goal to continuously improve the quality of the care we provide and ensure better outcomes for our patients.

## Results

### Aggregate Quality Score

(based on adherence to tracked quality measures noted above)

Target: >75%

#### Commercial

**84%** : **P3**: July 2023 – December 2023  
**70%** : **P4**: January 2024- June 2024  
**100%** : **P5**: July 2024 – December 2024

#### Medicare Advantage

**91%** : **P3**: July 2023 – December 2023  
**79%** : **P4**: January 2024- June 2024  
**91%** : **P5**: July 2024 – December 2024

# Monitoring Concordance with Evidence-Based Guidelines

## 2024 Evaluation – Small Cell Lung Cancer

### Purpose

This annual review evaluated whether patients with small cell lung cancer treated at Summa Health in 2023 received diagnostic workups and treatment aligned with evidence-based national guidelines (NCCN).

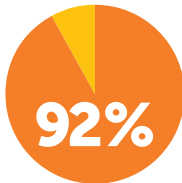
### Evaluation Process

- **Reviewed by:** Dr. Joshua Engle (Physician) and Melissa Smith (Cancer Registrar)
- **Cases Analyzed:** 37 cases for staging accuracy; 38 for diagnostic workup and treatment adherence
- **Data Source:** Cancer registry and electronic medical records (EMR)

### Key Findings

#### Staging Accuracy

92% of cases had accurate staging documentation



All discrepancies were resolved and registry updated



4 cases were corrected after review

### Diagnostic Workup

- All patients received appropriate diagnostic evaluations, or a clinical reason was documented
- Smoking cessation counseling was often not required as patients frequently quit smoking post-diagnosis
- MRI Brain scans were occasionally omitted when not clinically indicated (e.g., hospice decision)

### Treatment Concordance

- 100% of treated cases followed NCCN guidelines, or treatment deviations were clinically justified

### Reasons for non-treatment included:

- Poor post-surgical recovery
- Transition to hospice care
- Prior treatment history
- Death prior to initiating therapy

### Summary

- Summa Health met or exceeded national standards in the diagnosis and treatment of small cell lung cancer
- Continuous improvement processes, like physician-led chart reviews, help ensure high-quality cancer care
- Clinical judgment and patient circumstances were respected in all exceptions

## Focus on Research

Dr. Clarissa Polen-De is a Gynecologic Oncology specialist with a focus in complex surgical care, patient-centered oncologic care and quality improvement. She joined Summa Health in 2022 and became the research representative for clinical studies in the gynecological oncology department in 2024.

Dr. Polen-De has a strong background in gynecologic oncology, contributing to research, education and patient care. Her fellowship training was completed at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, and she has received many awards for her work. She also mentors students and residents and leads the Women's Health Research Committee at Summa Health.

Since joining Summa Health, Dr. Polen-De has worked hard to improve gynecological cancer care through research. In 2024, she started a project to evaluate physical activity levels and the importance of exercise and movement in women with gynecological cancers. This investigator-initiated study has



DR. POLEN-DE

enrolled more than 50 patients and will evaluate patient activity level, sarcopenia (muscle loss), and ultimately aims to test the effectiveness of a clinic-based exercise program.

Dr. Polen-De has greatly improved the clinical research program at Summa Health with her dedication and hard work. In addition to her physical activity project, in 2024, she was the lead researcher on several other enrolling trials for gynecological oncology listed below, as well as the mentor for multiple OBGYN resident projects, surgical videos and case reports for the department of Women's Health.

For more information on clinical trials at Summa Health, please contact the Clinical Research Center at **330.375.4221**.

GOG 3043	GOG Foundation	Cervical Cancer
PROACTION	Pink Dx.	Uterine Cancer Detection
IMGN853-0424	Immunogen Inc.	Ovarian Cancer
NRG GY028	NRG Oncology	Endometrial Cancer

# Committee Members

## Outcomes Report Project Committee

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Senior Corporate Communications  
Strategist

**Angela DelPrete**  
Senior Marketing Strategist

**Sameer Mahesh, M.D.**  
Medical Director

**Tracy Mondello**  
Operations Manager,  
Clinical Research Center

**Barb Saylor, MSN, RN**  
System Director, Oncology Service Line

**Melissa Smith, RHIT, CTR**  
Manager, Cancer Registry and Program  
Accreditations

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