



Memorial Regional Cancer Center achieves four-year accreditation for radiation oncology services from ASTRO's Accreditation Program for Excellence (APEX®)

SOUTH BEND, IN, January 29, 2018—Memorial Regional Cancer Center has demonstrated compliance with the standards of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) Accreditation Program for Excellence (APEX®), effective December 20, 2017, for a four-year accreditation of their radiation oncology services.

APEX is an independent radiation oncology practice accreditation program developed by ASTRO based on a comprehensive set of sixteen evidence-based standards of radiation oncology practice. The sixteen standards are focused on five pillars of patient care: 1) the process of care; 2) the radiation oncology team; 3) safety; 4) quality management; and 5) patient-centered care.

"Memorial Regional Cancer Center is pleased to receive APEX accreditation from the largest radiation oncology society in the world," said Katie Shively, Director, Radiation Oncology, Memorial Regional Cancer Center.

"Evaluating our processes in relation to ASTRO's high standards, including standards for safety and quality, validates our practices and recognizes the efforts of our radiation oncology team to deliver patient-centered radiation oncology care," Shively said.

Memorial Regional Cancer Center, which is part of Beacon Health System, is the only APEX-accredited cancer center in the state of Indiana. The Cancer Center operates locations at Memorial Hospital of South Bend, 615 N. Michigan St., South Bend, and at Cancer Care Partners, 301 E. Day Road, Mishawaka.

“ASTRO is excited to recognize Memorial Regional Cancer Center for achieving APEx accreditation,” said ASTRO Chair Brian Kavanagh, MD, MPH, FASTRO. “Memorial Regional Cancer Center has demonstrated a commitment to providing their patients with safe, high-quality radiation therapy services.”

Accreditation through APEx is a rigorous, voluntary, multi-step process that can take up to one year to complete. Each center seeking APEx accreditation must have its policies and procedures evaluated using objective, verifiable expectations for performance in radiation oncology. It must demonstrate its commitment to high standards of safety and quality in the practice of radiation oncology and that it practices patient-centered care by promoting effective communication, coordinating treatment, and engaging patients and their families as partners in care.

APEx has a distinctive program structure that includes both a self-assessment process and a facility visit conducted by a medical physicist and a radiation oncologist, radiation therapist, nurse, dosimetrist, nurse practitioner, physician assistant or practice administrator. APEx integrates Maintenance of Certification (MOC) templates that promote value and efficiency for physicians and final evaluation reports that link standards and performance to quality improvement resources. APEx applicants also have access to a library of quality improvement practice management tools to facilitate a culture of safety. APEx reflects competencies and practices identified and endorsed in the 2012 ASTRO publication [*Safety is No Accident: A Framework for Quality Radiation Oncology and Care*](#).

ABOUT BEACON HEALTH SYSTEM

As the largest, locally owned and operated health care system in the area, Beacon Health System is the region’s most trusted partner and guide in creating and maintaining health. Our award-winning partners – Elkhart General Hospital, Memorial Hospital of South Bend, Beacon Children’s Hospital and Beacon Medical Group – are powered by more than 7,000 associates and 1,000 physicians who provide the best care possible to people of all ages. We are also a research and education organization, guiding clinical research trials and helping train medical residents in the fields of family medicine and hospital pharmacy.

ABOUT ASTRO

The American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) is the world's largest radiation oncology society, with more than 10,000 members who are physicians, nurses, biologists, physicists, radiation therapists, dosimetrists and other health care professionals who specialize in treating patients with radiation therapies. The Society is dedicated to improving patient care through professional education and training, support for clinical practice and health policy standards, advancement of science and research, and advocacy. ASTRO publishes three peer-reviewed journals, the International Journal of Radiation Oncology • Biology • Physics (redjournal.org), Practical Radiation Oncology (practicalradonc.org) and Advances in Radiation Oncology (advancesradonc.org); developed and maintains an extensive patient website, RT Answers (rtanswers.org); and created the Radiation Oncology Institute (roinstitute.org), a nonprofit foundation to support research and education efforts around the world that enhance and confirm the critical role of radiation therapy in improving cancer treatment. To learn more about ASTRO, visit www.astro.org, sign up to [receive our news](#) and follow us on our [blog](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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