

# Collaborative Cancer Care

2020 – 2021  
Annual Report



**Lauren Das, MD**  
2020–2021 Chair of the  
Cancer Care co-management

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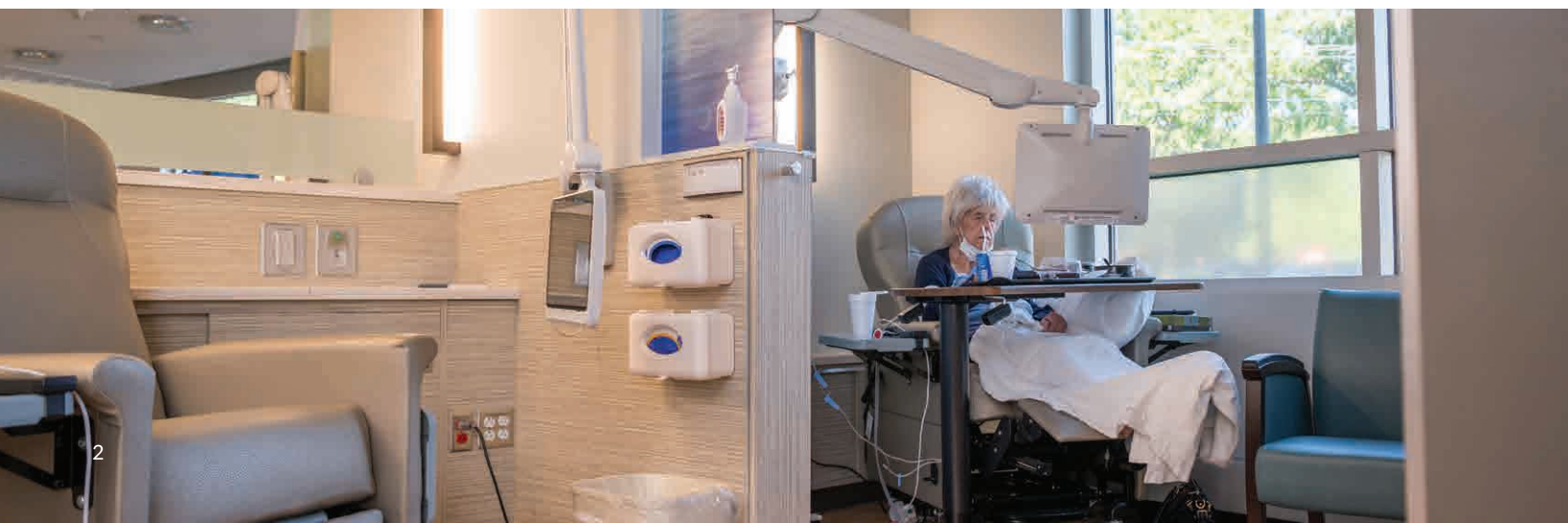
## Dear colleagues,

We are excited about the new collaborative Beacon Cancer Care co-management program, and this annual report will highlight our 2020–2021 progress toward meeting the program's goals.

Our vision is to develop and continually improve our cancer program in order to provide efficient, all-inclusive, leading-edge cancer care for our community. We do this by achieving three things: improving patient experience and patient outcomes while managing costs of care.

We are proud of the progress we have made so far. Our focus in 2020–2021 included decreasing time between diagnosis and treatment of gynecologic and lung cancers, a national focus that improves prognosis and outcomes for our patients. Additionally, we assured all stage IV metastatic cancer patients had advanced care plans in place. When appropriate, discussions occur sooner regarding hospice program referral with the patients we serve.

As our co-managed services evolve to better meet the needs of our community members and patients, we will continue to learn how to improve further while staying focused on providing the best oncology care for our patients.





**Sam El-Dalati, MD**  
Chief Clinical Officer  
Beacon Health System

**This Cancer Care co-management program** was launched in 2019. The focus will always be to improve patient care and patient survival. The co-management combines the efforts of some of the most talented cancer specialists in our region from Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology and Gynecologic Oncology. The collaboration includes Elkhart General Hospital and Memorial Hospital, with representation from Beacon Medical Group and the Elkhart Clinic. This program works closely with administrative leads to improve clinical and operational performance for business growth and sustainability of our Cancer Care service line.

With our new co-managed team, we are confident our Cancer Care Services will continue to deliver the care our community expects and deserves.



## Beacon Cancer Care co-management members:

**Lauren Das, MD**  
Radiation Oncology,  
Beacon Medical Group,  
Chair of the Cancer Care co-management

**Ahsanul Haque, MD**  
Medical Oncology,  
Elkhart Clinic

**David Hornback, MD**  
Radiation Oncology,  
Beacon Medical Group

**James Jin, MD**  
Medical Oncology,  
Elkhart Clinic

**Russell Johnson, MD**  
Radiation Oncology,  
Beacon Medical Group

**Javed Malik, DO**  
Medical Oncology,  
Beacon Medical Group

**Sam McGrath, MD**  
Radiation Oncology,  
Beacon Medical Group

**Nonyem Onujiogu, MD**  
Gynecologic Medical Oncology,  
Beacon Medical Group

**LaToya Perry, MD**  
Gynecologic Medical Oncology,  
Beacon Medical Group

**Nibal Saad, MD**  
Medical Oncology,  
Beacon Medical Group

**Uzair Saqlain, MD**  
Medical Oncology,  
Beacon Medical Group

**Omer Toor, MD**  
Medical Oncology,  
Beacon Medical Group

# Quality metrics 2020 – 2021

	Historical performance	2021 YTD
Decrease days from decision to GYN-ONC surgery date	30 days	27 days
Counsel all stage IV metastatic cancer patients on advance directives within 3 months of first consult	N/A	89%
Increase percentage of stage I-III lung cancer patients receiving definitive treatment (surgery, chemo and/or radiation) within 30 days of biopsy date	33%	54%





## Finess

### Catching breast cancer early



Finess has been vigilant about getting a screening mammogram every year since she was 35. She knows that early detection leads to a 90-percent cure rate. Then COVID struck and caused her to miss her first one in years. But she was determined to get back on track.

“When things started up again, the first thing I did was schedule my mammogram ... and that’s when they caught the cancer.”

Finess trusted Beacon Cancer Care at Elkhart General for the highest level of care, including working with providers in Hematology & Medical Oncology, Cancer Surgery and Radiation Oncology. “I had my treatment with the oncology team at Beacon. They really treat you like they care on a personal level.”

Family means everything to Finess, especially her grandchildren. Now, she can continue to enjoy time with them. “Thanks to the mammography, the early detection and the team at Beacon, I’m happy to say I’m cancer-free.”



Read more about Finess’s story at [beaconhealthsystem.org/finess](https://beaconhealthsystem.org/finess).



Sue

## Finding the right team to feel hope again



Sue's mother, father and sister all lost their lives to lung cancer. So when her family doctor encouraged her to get a lung cancer screening, she put it off – she was afraid of what they'd find. But because of her age, history of smoking and family history of lung cancer, she worked up the courage to get screened.

"The screening showed I was in the early stages of lung cancer."

Sue knew she didn't need to go far to get the best cancer care available at Memorial Hospital, and got help from providers in Hematology & Medical Oncology and Radiation Oncology. "I met the team at Beacon and was told about a treatment called SABR." Stereotactic ablative radiotherapy requires no surgery and delivers a highly focused dosage of radiation while limiting exposure to other organs. The best part? She had no side-effects or pain.

"I don't know how I would've been able to get through this without my Beacon team. The level of care was unbelievable. They truly care."



Read more about Sue's story at [beaconhealthsystem.org/sue](https://beaconhealthsystem.org/sue).

# Earning high praise for high-quality care

MAYO CLINIC  
CARE NETWORK



Member

Because Beacon Cancer Care is nationally recognized for delivering the highest level of care, our patients know they don't have to travel far to receive the best care available for them and their families. And through our collaboration with Mayo Clinic, our cancer specialists take advantage of e-consults for second opinions. This gives them access to clinical care protocols from one of the leading cancer programs in the country.



## Memorial Hospital

- Three-year accreditation by the American College of Surgeons, Commission on Cancer
- American College of Surgeons Comprehensive Community Cancer Program
- ASTRO Accreditation Program for Excellence (APEX) for Radiation Oncology

## Elkhart General Hospital

- Three-year accreditation by the American College of Surgeons, Commission on Cancer
- American College of Surgeons Comprehensive Community Cancer Program
- Three-year Accreditation by the American College of Radiation Oncology (ACRO)



LaToya Perry, MD  
2022 Chair of the Cancer Care  
co-management

## From the next Chair

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on cancer care in the United States has caused decreases and delays in identifying new cancers and delivering treatment. There were substantial decreases in cancer screenings, visits, therapies and surgeries, with variation by cancer types and site of service.

These problems, if not addressed, will increase cancer morbidity and mortality for years to come. Because of this, in 2022 we will continue to focus on improving time-to-treatment initiatives for multiple types of cancers.

Looking ahead, we have promising opportunities to expedite care for our patients and reduce people's cancer risks. I look forward to improving even more the health and the lives of the people we care for.



Learn more at  
[beacon.health/cancer](https://beacon.health/cancer)