

**Std. 1.12 - Public Reporting of Outcomes**  
**Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center Cancer Committee's**  
**2019 Initiatives and Activities**

The Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center Cancer Committee has been very active throughout 2019. It is our second year since our program got accredited by the American College of Surgeons!

Of the many important programs our committee worked on this year, we would like to highlight and elaborate on a couple of them:

**Program Goals:**

Each year, the Cancer Committee establishes a clinical and programmatic goals. The Programmatic Goal for 2019 was: Head & Neck Cancer Patients Nutritional Program. This program applied involving our Dietary and Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) consultants before starting the therapy for patients with Head & Neck cancer. Treatment for Head & Neck Cancer includes, most of the time, surgery with or without radiation therapy. Such therapies can cause significant swallow and speech difficulties for the majority of the patients and sometimes can be very cumbersome for the patients, hard to treat, and possibly permanent! Involving the Dietary and SLP consultants before and during the therapy can significantly prevent or at least minimize the severity of such therapy-related complications.

**Evidence-Based Guidelines Compliance:**

One of the quality standards of our Cancer program for 2019 was Evidence-Based Guidelines Compliance (Standard 4.6). The purpose of this standard is to make sure that treatments offered to our patients at our Cancer Center were compliant with the major Evidence-Based Guidelines, like National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Guidelines. Last year we monitored the treatment that was done on patients with skin cancer, and was consistent with NCCN guidelines. This also applied to previous years.

Our goal is to continue working on these and many other programs in order to sustain the rapid growth of our cancer program at Ephraim McDowell Health. If you have any questions about Ephraim McDowell Health Cancer Care, please contact us at (859) 236-2203.

Nicola Jabbour, MD Chairman, Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center Cancer Committee