



About Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers



55+
physicians



20+
sites of service



19,000+
new cancer
patients
annually



Helped develop
more than
100
FDA-approved
cancer therapies

Founded in 1992, Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers is an independent, physician-led practice that delivers leading-edge technology and treatment options and conducts innovative research. Founders of the practice pioneered community-based care to enable more cancer patients to receive high-quality care while staying close to the support of family and friends.

In 2023, more than 1.95 million new cases of cancer are expected to be diagnosed in the United States, according to the American Cancer Society; nearly 29,000 will be in Colorado. With 21 locations throughout Colorado, our network of more than 55 physicians is collectively focused on treating cancer and blood disorders with leading-edge technology and innovative research no matter where you live.

Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers' community-based approach of integrated subspecialty oncology care enables patients to receive leading-edge treatment while living at home and receiving the critical support of family and friends. Nearly 20,000 new cancer patients were treated at Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers last year.

Patients who are treated at Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers can participate in some of the most promising national clinical trials for a broad range of cancers. Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers has played a role in the development of more than 100 FDA-approved cancer-fighting drugs – about one-third of cancer therapies approved by the FDA to date. At any given time, more than 150 national clinical trials are open throughout the network.

Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers is a leader in innovative healthcare programs that reduce the cost of care and improve population health. We actively participate in national and state debates over cost of care, the cost of drugs, biosimilars, and the importance of community oncology in patient treatment.

Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers supports efforts that protect the patient and physician relationship. Our priority is to bring the patient focus back into policy.

Protect patient choice and access to safe and timely care

Bill to be introduced, Jodeh

Insurers and Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) are mandating policies that steer patients to receive physician administered drugs, like chemotherapy, from PBM-affiliated or PBM-owned specialty pharmacies. Chemotherapies consist of complex drug regimens that are dynamic, patient-specific, frequently adjusted at the point of care and prepared on site based on a patient's ever-changing circumstance (such as disease progression, co-morbidities, and weight variation, as well as the drug's toxicities and side effects). These insurer mandated policies steer patients and require physician-administered drugs to be pre-ordered days in advance and shipped to the physician's office for administration. Pre-ordered drugs based on a patients' prior circumstance do not allow for crucial same day dose adjustments. This practice delays patients' access to timely care which leads to disease progression and interferes with the normal course of treatment on how cancer care is delivered today.

Protect Colorado's most vulnerable from step therapy requirements

RMCC Supports HB 1183, Jodeh & Sirota

Step therapy, or "fail first," requires patients to try the drug that is preferred by their insurance plan before they can proceed to the drug prescribed by their physician. For cancer patients, timely access to individualized treatment is critical. RMCC supports legislation that ensures physicians have an efficient and timely prior authorization process to receive exemptions for step therapy to treat serious medical conditions. Colorado has enacted laws that provide for an override exception if the patient's health care provider demonstrates that the drug is contraindicated or likely to cause adverse reaction, the drug is expected to be ineffective, the patient has tried and failed on the drug, or the patient is stable on another drug. HB 1183 by Rep. Jodeh will provide all the same exceptions but is introduced to include Medicaid patients. RMCC supports this as nearly 1 out of every 10 of our patients are Medicaid. For cancer patients, timely access to individualized treatment is critical. Oncologists work closely with their patients to develop a personalized treatment plan, taking into consideration a patient's medical history, type of cancer, stage at diagnosis, and other factors. If cancer patients are forced to step through multiple drugs before receiving the treatment originally prescribed by their oncologists, they may experience irreversible disease progression.

Expand patient access to tests that help determine the best treatment

Progress in improving cancer outcomes increasingly involves the use of precision medicine. Biomarker testing can help determine the best treatment for a patient.

RMCC Supports HB 1110, Hartsook & Michaelson Jenet

- Passage of this bill would ensure expedited approval and sufficient coverage of biomarker testing for all Colorado cancer patients on state regulated plans. This is an incredibly important step forward in expanding timely access to precision medicine for some of the most vulnerable patients in our state.
- New advances in precision medicine are rapidly altering the way physicians diagnose and treat cancer. Availability of biomarker testing that factor in a patients' genomic and cellular profile means that truly customized treatments are closer than ever before. As more and more of these targeted therapies are being developed there has also arisen a companion demand for continued access to associated biomarker testing.

Additional RMCC Bills of Interest

SUPPORT:

HB 1215 - (Sirota, Boesenecker, Cutter and Mullica) - Concerning limitations on hospital facility fees.

SB 144 - (Ginal) - Prescription Drugs for Chronic Pain

OPPOSE:

SB 083 (Winter) – Physician Assistant Collaboration Requirements