



ABOUT TEXAS ONCOLOGY

Helping Texans fight cancer is Texas Oncology's mission.

Founded in 1986, Texas Oncology is an independent, physician-led practice delivering leading-edge technology and treatment options and conducting 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 critical support of family and friends.



In 2023, more than 1.95 million new cases of cancer are expected to be diagnosed according to the American Cancer Society, in the United States; more than 139,000 will be in Texas. With more than 280 sites of service throughout Texas and southeastern Oklahoma, our network of more than 530 physicians are collectively focused on treating cancer and blood disorders no matter where you live.

Texas Oncology's community-based approach of integrated subspecialty oncology care enables patients to receive treatment while living at home and maintaining their critical support structure. More than 70,000 new cancer patients were treated at Texas Oncology last year.

Patients who are treated at Texas Oncology have the opportunity to participate in some of the most promising national clinical trials for a broad range of cancers. Texas Oncology has played a role in the development of more than 100 FDA-approved cancer-fighting drugs. At any given time, more than 150 national clinical trials are open throughout the network.

Texas Oncology 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.

Texas Oncology is part of The US Oncology Network, one of the nation's largest networks of integrated, community-based oncology practices dedicated to advancing high-quality, evidence-based cancer care. The Network unites likeminded physicians and clinicians around a common vision of expanding patient access to the highest quality state-of-the-art care close to home, and at lower costs for patients and the health care system. The Network treats approximately 850,000 cancer patients annually in more than 400 locations across 27 states.

For more information, visit https://www.texasoncology.com/who-we-are.

Texas oncology 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, HB 1647, Cody Harris | SB 1138, Schwertner

Insurers and Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) are mandating policies that steer patients to receive physicianadministered 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.

SUPPORT LEGISLATION FOCUSED ON THE WELL BEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE PATIENT

- Support Patient Fertility Preservation Coverage, HB 389, Collier | HB 1649, Button, Klick, Collier | SB 1277, Parker | SB 447, Menendez
- Support Coverage for Hair Protheses for Breast Cancer Patients, HB 1164, Gervin-Hawkins

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.

- Patient Biomarker Testing Coverage, SB 989, Huffman | HB 3188, Bonnen
- Testing Coverage for Prostate Cancer, HB 118, Cortez

SUPPORT THE LICENSING OF GENETIC COUNSELORS

 Without licensure, most genetic counselors in Texas cannot be credentialed by their employers or bill for their services, HB 173, Klick | SB 484, Johnson

SUPPORT EFFORTS DIRECTED TOWARDS THE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE SHORTAGE

- HB 901, Klick | SB 244, Kolkhorst
- The Senate and House filed versions of the General Appropriations Bill, or the state budget SB 1 and HB 1 contain identical provisions that provide more funding to address the healthcare workforce shortage

SUPPORT ENACTING A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO REDUCE TEXAS' RATE OF UNINSURED PATIENTS IN TEXAS

- HB 2587, Howard- increase population eligible for Medicaid coverage for breast and cervical cancer services
- HB 12, Rose 12-month postpartum coverage

Angela Storseth-Cooper, Director Government Relations

The US Oncology Network | angela.storseth@usoncology.com

Debra Patt, MD, Executive VP

Texas Oncology | <u>debra.patt@usoncology.com</u>

