



About OHC (Oncology Hematology Care, Inc.)

OHC has been fighting cancer on the front lines for 40 years. As the only independent group of cancer experts in the Greater Cincinnati area, we are the region's leading experts in the treatment of nearly every form of adult cancer and complex blood disorder. OHC cancer experts include medical oncologists, hematologists, blood and marrow transplant specialists, cellular therapy specialists, radiation oncologists, gynecologic oncologists, and breast surgical oncologists.

OHC continues to bring hope and leading-edge treatment options through its nationally recognized cancer research and clinical trials program, and our partnership with the world-renowned Sarah Cannon Research Institute gives local patients greater access to phase 1-4 clinical trials. OHC is certified by the American Society of Clinical Oncology in the Quality Oncology Practice Initiative Certification Program.

OHC is a leader in patient care and symptom management through its nurse triage program. Weekend hours and personalized navigation offer patients the highest quality delivered in a value-based setting.

At OHC, our search for new treatments is relentless. Our drive to provide superior care runs deep. And our fight against cancer is personal. Our independent, physician-led practice is known for delivering clinical excellence combined with unmatched personal and emotional support in neighborhoods throughout the region. At its heart, our approach to cancer care is simple — to surround you with everything you need so you can focus on what matters most: beating cancer.

At OHC:

- ✓ Our cancer experts are the region's leading providers of life-saving blood and marrow transplants for patients with blood cancers and other blood disorders.
- ✓
- ✓ OHC is the first, most experienced, and only certified independent adult cancer practice in the region to offer the revolutionary immunotherapy treatments CAR-T and NK cell therapy, for adults, ushering in a new frontier in the fight against cancer.
- ✓ Our team of 27 clinical trial researchers lead the region in cancer clinical trial offerings with 40+ active clinical trials at any given time.

OHC is partnered with 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 like-minded 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 32 states.

Questions: Allison Rollins, Sr. Manager Government Relations, The US Oncology Network, Allison.rollins@usoncology.com

“OHC is the reason I am still alive. I was diagnosed with cancer over 11 years ago. I have always said I don’t care about the doctor’s bedside manner, just give me the best doctor. With Dr. Essell, you get the best doctor with the best bedside manner!” – Patient on 10.17.23

PROTECT PATIENT ACCESS TO SAFE AND TIMELY CARE

✓ **SUPPORT HB 156: Regards Physician-Administered Drugs, Manning & Oelslager**

Insurers and Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) are mandating policies that steer patients to receive physician-administered drugs, like chemotherapy, from the PBM-affiliated or PBM-owned specialty pharmacy. 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 necessary 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. Passage of HB 156 would allow community oncology practices like OHC the ability to protect their patients from mandated white bagging policies and preserve timely access to care in the office setting.

✓ **SUPPORT HB 130: Establish an Exemption to Prior Authorization Requirements, Miller & Cross**

Prior authorization is a health plan cost-control process that requires oncologists to qualify for pre-approval a recommended treatment plan as a condition for coverage of necessary care for their cancer patients. While these requirements are intended to help maintain the financial viability of the plan, they often have the additional consequence of delaying care for patients through lengthy administrative processes. Cancer patients often do not have the privilege of time to wait for administrative procedures to play out and these treatment delays can often lead to irreversible disease progression. The solution to harmful administrative delays that HB 130 puts forward through a gold carding process could save valuable time for Ohio patients fighting against the clock to battle disease progression.

EXPAND ACCESS TO TARGETED THERAPIES THROUGH BROADER COVERAGE OF BIOMARKER TESTING

✓ **SUPPORT HB 24: Require Health Plan and Medicaid Coverage of Biomarker Testing, White & Brennan**

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. As the pipeline of treatment development shifts towards personalized medicine, it will become increasingly difficult to provide high quality care to patients who do not have access to the necessary testing coverage through their health plans. It is important to support HB 24 so that all Ohio patients with cancer have access to high quality, appropriate care as a result of biomarker testing as more and more targeted therapies become standard of care.

PROTECT PATIENTS FROM FINANCIAL TOXICITY

✓ **SUPPORT HB 177: Prohibit Certain Health Insurance Cost Sharing Practices, Manchester & Hoops**

Passage of HB 177 would prohibit the diversion of manufacturer assistance funding that was intended to lower patient out of costs by placing banning copay accumulator programs. When co-pay accumulators are in place, it allows the patient’s health plan to use these funds to reimburse themselves the full cost of the drug until funds are exhausted and then charge the patient high copays for subsequent doses without applying any of the funds to the patient’s deductible or out of pocket limit. This significantly raises the patient’s out of pocket costs and ultimately leads to increased stress and financial strain on cancer patients and their caregivers. Undergoing cancer treatment is already a stressful time for patients. At this time, patients should be focused on getting well and not suffering from anxiety over unnecessarily costly treatment. As cancer care specialists, we at OHC are keenly aware that our patients’ clinical outcomes are highly dependent on their ability to adhere to their complex treatment regimens in a timely manner. Since fear of financial toxicity can cause poor adherence in cancer care, it is important that our Legislature take steps to support policies that reduce this burden.