

MINUTES
Augusta VAMC Cancer Committee
Monday, February 12, 2007
3:30PM EST – 2D148- DD

Attendance:

Lawrence J. Freant, MD, Chair	Path/Lab Medicine
Paul Dainer, MD	Hematology/Oncology
Talmadge Bowden, MD	General Surgery
B.R. Manjunath, MD	Mental Health and Geriatrics/ Hospice and Palliative Care
John Arena, PhD	Mental Health and Geriatrics/ Pain Management
Chris Sheils, MD	Radiation therapy
Lloyd Schnuck, MD	Imaging Department
Annie L. Parks, ACSW	Specialty Care
Judi Peckel, RN/OCN	Oncology Nursing
Cheryl Newman	Quality Management
Erica Williams for Charles Wright	Health Sys Specialist/MA
Lisa Arnold, RHIA, CTR	HIMRA/ Tumor Registrar
Shawana Burch, RHIA	HIMRA
Denise Anderson, MRT	HIMRA/ Tumor Registry Tech

ABSENT:

Martha Terris, MD, Cancer Liaison (exc)	GU/Surgery
Frederick Klippert, MD	ENT/Surgery
David Rivera, MD	Surgery
James K. Smith, MD	Pulmonary Medicine
Denise Anderson, MRT (exc)	HIMRA
Paul Schantz	Chaplain Dept.
Amanda May, MD	Hematology/Oncology

1. Welcome and Remarks

Dr. Freant welcomed everyone. The minutes from 12/20/06 were reviewed and approved by the committee.

2. Topics for Discussion – Dr. Freant

- Upcoming Cancer Program Survey – June 20, 2007 with Dr. John Allison
 - Preparations for the upcoming survey were discussed. Previously the cancer program received an approval rating of 3 years with commendation.
 - Dr. Allison is one of the 4 national VA surveyors. Dr. Freant discussed the importance of timely submissions to the NCDB.
 - The committee discussed how to best present the Wed Noon Thoracic Conference given the current room set up. Possibly contact medical media for use of a Digital Projector.

- The following goals were established and discussed for 2007 (std. 2.5):
 1. Clinical –
 - Increase the use of pumps for continuous infusions in the Hematology/Oncology Unit. The registry staff will follow up with Judi Peckel for further information and monitoring.
 - Interventional Radiology Ports – Information provided by Dr. Shiels, patients educated on their use; decrease in OR time.
 2. Programmatic endeavors –
 - The Minority-Based Community Clinical Oncology Program (CCOMP) temporarily been suspended. Dr. Dainer, who is the VA representative for this, is currently pursuing it's reinstatement.
 - Dr. Dainer has been asked by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) as to whether the VA has a web site for the cancer program. The possibility of publishing the annual report on the web was discussed as a resolution to this. The expansion of the medical centers FIPS data to make it accessible to the public was discussed. The registry will review VACCR's guidelines on this.
 - The Cancer Committee unanimously decided to reappointment Dr. Terris to the CLP position.
 3. Quality improvement –
 - Pursue new preventative service: Introduction of HPV vaccination availability to female veteran population under the age of 27. Erin Jolly, Program Manager for the Women Veterans Program is responsible for this endeavor.
 - Implementation of View Alert for completion of AJCC Staging Forms in CPRS.

- Appointment/Reappointment of cancer program coordinators. (std 2.3)
 The following individuals have been appointed as coordinators for 2007 for the following areas of Cancer Committee Activity –
 - Cancer Conference:** Denise Anderson
 - Quality Control of Cancer Registry:** Lisa Arnold
 - Quality Improvement:** Cheryl Newman

3. Topics for Information:

- VA Survey Savvy March 22, 2007 in Chicago IL
 - Plans are in place for Lisa Arnold to attend for the Medical Center

- 2007 Cancer Conference (std 2.6 and 2.7):
 The format and frequency for the following conferences were discussed. For both conferences, all required specialties must have representation at 75% of the conferences for the year. Documentation of Cancer Conference activities: Cancer Conference Grids

Site Specific Interdisciplinary Thoracic Conference – Held in conjunction with Eisenhower Army Medical Center; Weekly on Wednesdays at noon. Attendance is required from the following specialties:

- Surgery
 - Diagnostic Imaging
 - Pathology
 - Medical Oncology
 - Radiation Oncology
 - Thoracic – for Interdisciplinary Thoracic Conference ONLY
- All other staff are encouraged to attend.

Facility wide Interdisciplinary Cancer Conference - Held in conjunction with the Medical College of Georgia; weekly on Wednesdays at 3:30PM. Attendance is required from the following specialties:

- Surgery or Pulmonary
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Pathology
- Medical Oncology
- Radiation Oncology

All other staff are encouraged to attend.

- Cancer Registry Status (std 2.10):
To insure reporting consistency with the CoC cancer program standards, the registry will report follow-up rates for both the analytic patients with in the last 5 years and analytic patients since the registry reference date. They will also begin to report cases abstracted by suspense date rather than the actual number of cases.
 - Follow-Up Rates:
 - 90% follow-up rate of analytic patients within last 5 yrs: 74%
 - 80% follow-up rate of analytic patients since registry reference date: 79%
 - Cases are abstracted within 6 months of suspense date: 7 months
 - Monthly Reporting to VACCR: Current
 - NCDB Submission: All case for 2005 submitted.

Cancer Conference activity 1st Quarter to date: Combined, 9 conferences have been held with 26 VA patients presented. For these conferences the attendance rate of the required specialties were met

- Registry QA distribution - The registry staff will be distributing abstracts to the committee members beginning March 2007. (std. 2.10)

***The next quarterly meeting will be scheduled for April 23, 2007.**

2007 Cancer Committee meeting schedule:
April 23, 2007
July 23, 2007
October 22, 2007