

CANCER CONNECTIONS

Connecting patients and community to cancer resources and updates in North Central Washington.



ACOS COC 3 –YEAR ACCREDITATION

*By: Spencer D. Green,
Service Line Director of Oncology*



A QUALITY PROGRAM
of the AMERICAN COLLEGE
OF SURGEONS
Awards this
CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION
to the Integrated Network Cancer Program of
Confluence Health
Winchester, WA
Program Accredited through 2024



David M. Williams
FRANCIS W. WHEELER, MD, FACS
Chair, Commission on Cancer
James Prasad
JAMES PRASAD, MD, FACS
Chief, Ambulatory Cancer



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Confluence Health’s Oncology Program has a longstanding history of commitment to quality. We first became an accredited program through the American College of Surgeons (ACoS) Commission on Cancer (CoC), in 2005, as a Comprehensive Community Cancer Program (CCCP). Throughout the years, we have continued our commitment to being a high quality provider of cancer care to the patients in our NCW community, and I am proud to announce that we have grown and transitioned into an Integrated Network Cancer Program! We have successfully achieved 3-year accreditation as such, through 2024.



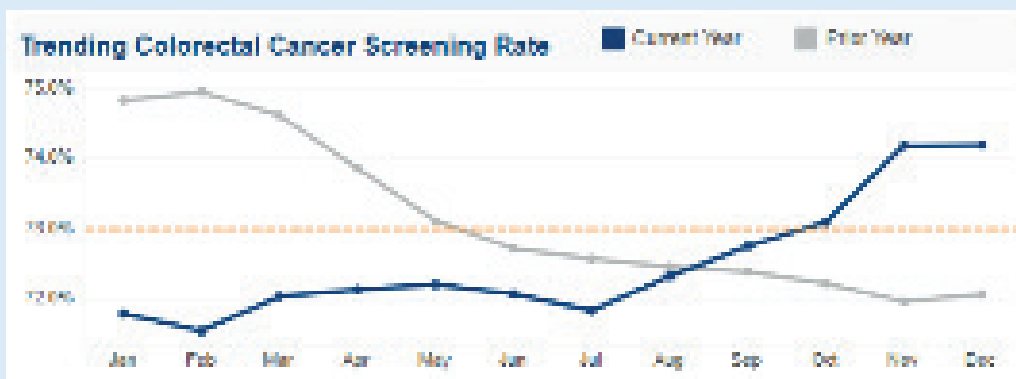


COLON CANCER SCREENING EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.

By: Jenn Jorgensen, MD

Medical Director of G.I.

Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the US, but it is largely preventable through screening. Screening options include colonoscopy and stool-based testing (FIT and Cologuard). Because of COVID, we have not been able to do as many colonoscopies over the past 2 years and have been relying more on stool-based methods. As you can see in the graph below, during 2020, screening rates at Confluence Health fell dramatically due to COVID, but we adjusted and offered more stool-based tests so that we were able to improve back to our baseline by the end of 2021. To get the word out to patients about the importance of colon cancer screening and their options, Confluence Health is partnering with North Central Regional Libraries to create a virtual health education series this spring. It will feature many topics to include healthy weight loss, mental health and depression, and cancer prevention and screening. We also hope to partner more with the Café and the Parque Padrinos to improve cancer screening amongst our Latin-x community. The multi-disciplinary Cancer Team at Confluence Health is working closely with Infectious Disease experts and other medical specialties to ensure seamless cancer care throughout the pandemic for all patients.





DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

By: *Kimberly Fischer, PA*

Cancer Program Quality Coordinator

When we think about cancer screening, there are many decisions to be made. When should I get screened?

What type of screening tool should I use? How often should I be screened?

To make high quality decisions, you need two things:

- 1) The scientifically proven risks and benefits of the options
- 2) Consideration of your own values, preferences, family history, and life-situation

When your healthcare team works together with you on your personalized screening plan, this approach is called “Shared Decision-Making”. Talking with your provider at an office visit is always a great time to start cancer screening Shared Decision-Making. But you don’t need to wait until a visit to start that process!

Over the last few years, a team of Confluence Health clinicians from Radiology, Primary Care, Women’s Health, Geriatrics, Medical Oncology, Rural Health, (and more!) worked on creating Shared Decision-Making tools for Breast Cancer Screening. Their work has been recognized at State and National levels!

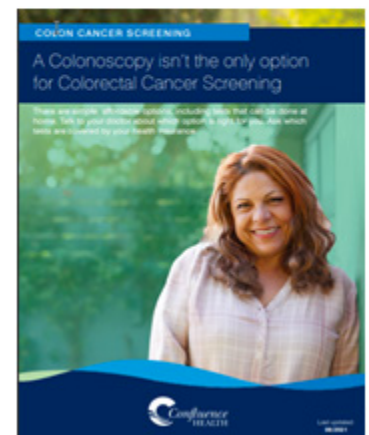
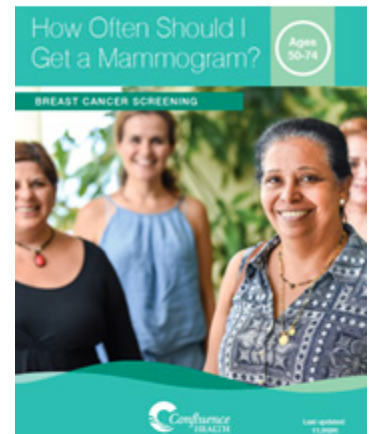
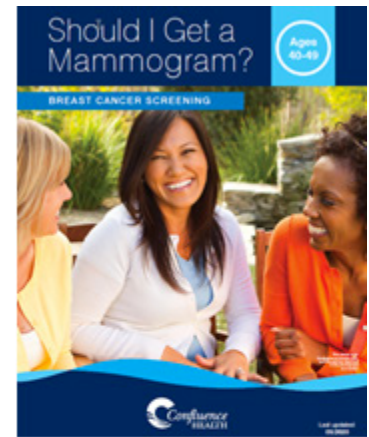
These pamphlets explain mammography risks and benefits, the science behind different recommendations, and how to identify your own personal risks and preferences. The pamphlets are available in both Spanish and English, plus they address how screening changes at different ages.

Colon Cancer screening also involves many decisions—so we have a Shared Decision-Making pamphlet for that too...

If you, or someone you know has questions about Breast or Colon Cancer Screening, you can stop by your Primary Care Provider’s office to pick one of these up. Alternatively, go to the

ConfluenceHealth.org website to read an electronic copy or print your own at home.

<https://www.confluencehealth.org/services/cancer-care/>.





COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR CANCER SURVIVORS

By: Katie Kemble, DNP

Co-Founder EASE Foundation

The EASE Cancer Foundation in collaboration with Confluence Health has provided community-based educational opportunities to NCW for 15+ years. Our 2nd Virtual Winter Lecture Series launched on January 29 and is offered on six Saturday mornings through March 26, 2022. Participants may attend live interactive online video presentations or watch previous recordings as they become available. The Cancer Survivorship Wellness & Rehabilitation Program is a 12-week community-based program that supports active, joyful, and healthier lifestyles. Highlights include flexibility, strength, cardiovascular training, and nutritional counseling. In addition, there are educational classes on exercise, chemo brain, stress management, sleep hygiene, cancer risk reduction, and more. The next 12-week session will start around the 1st week of April. Spring for Health, a women's retreat for cancer survivors will take place at Sun Mountain Lodge's Patterson Lake cabins on April 29 through May 1. And last but not least, the 15th cancer survivorship workshop Journey to Wellness will take place in October 2022. To learn more about community events go to www.easecancer.org.

LOCATIONS



OMAK CLINIC

916 Koala Drive
Omak, WA 98841



WENATCHEE VALLEY HOSPITAL & CLINICS

820 North Chelan Avenue
Wenatchee, WA 98801



MOSES LAKE CLINIC

840 East Hill Avenue
Moses Lake, WA 98837



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

By: Julie Smith, MD

Medical Director of Oncology

The David Notter Award from the Confluence Health Oncology Program is given to those who go above and beyond caring for the patient, teamwork, customer service, or quality improvement. Dr. David Notter exemplified the art of caring for the patient—touching thousands of patients, families, community members, and others. His spirit of placing the patient and their needs first is fostered within the Oncology Community here at Confluence Health. We celebrate this gift among each other, and honor those who practice this art of caring. Rhonda Macarthur was recently awarded the Notter Award. Rhonda joined Confluence Health initially in the laboratory in 2010, and when the opportunity arose, she joined Oncology as our dedicated phlebotomist. Rhonda is endeared and loved by both patients, and staff.

There is no one else quite like Rhonda. She exemplifies the standards of service and excellence. She is efficient, proficient, and knowledgeable. Patients speak highly of her skill as a phlebotomist and also of her sense of humor. In short interactions with dozens of people a day, she is able to provide a meaningful interaction and establish trust. She remembers details about specific patients from one appointment to the next, and bonds with people over a love of pets. How many people leave a blood draw room with a smile on their face and laughter in their heart? In Rhonda's room, this is a frequent occurrence.

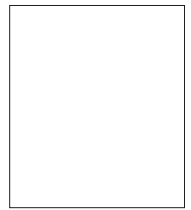


In addition to managing her own schedule gracefully, Rhonda is quick to jump in and lend a helping hand whenever her schedule allows, such as stopping by the infusion room to stuff pillow cases on empty pillows. She humbly and calmly approaches the day and takes on heavy loads without complaint.

We are indeed very fortunate to have Rhonda on our team!



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Wenatchee, WA 98801



CONFLUENCE

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PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

And many more!



Fred Hutch • Seattle Children's • UW Medicine

