Clinical Practice Guidelines for Rehab and Oncology

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Clinical Practice Guidelines for Rehab and Oncology
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Introduction/Purpose:
Patients have a right to expect that treatment recommendations reflect not only national consensus, but also are evidence based and cost effective in their approach. The disease management team will adopt the NCCN guidelines as a model for the development of guidelines of care; and examine, as data is available, the costs associated with these guidelines at Lehigh Valley Health Network, the development of efficient pathways to minimize the cost and maintain quality outcomes.

Scope:
These clinical practice guidelines will apply to all physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants who provide treatment to adult patients with the diagnosis of a cancer.

Interventions:
A multidisciplinary team of Rehabilitation Program professionals developed an evidence-based algorithm to identify immediate and long-term physical sequelae resulting from disease or treatment.

Evaluation:
Disease Management Groups review and update all guidelines on an annual basis. Rehabilitation will evaluate referral patterns and patient satisfaction as initial quality measures. The Nurse Coordinator will develop outcome measurement tools to augment the quality process.

Discussion:
Expanding our Clinical Practice Guidelines from a traditional physician focus has provided an educational experience for our entire oncology team. Providers demonstrate a heightened commitment to guideline development and outcome evaluation. Nursing leadership has utilized a strong evidence-based format to enhance the delivery of cancer care at Lehigh Valley Health Network.