Services (continued)

Supportive Services (continued)

Supportive Services

Information and Education
Talk to an advanced practice oncology nurse specialist to learn more about cancer diagnosis, treatment options at Torrance Memorial and other cancer treatment centers, and coping with the effects of cancer treatment. Community outreach activities include cancer lectures, events and presentations through the Torrance Memorial Speakers Bureau and involvement with national and local cancer organizations.

(continued on next panel)
A Winning Combination
Combining world-class and compassionate treatment, our cancer institute offers complete cancer care tailored to every patient. Leading-edge diagnostics, treatment, rehabilitation, and support services are only part of the benefits patients receive. The heart of our program is team work. Each patient and their loved ones can be confident in our community of expert physicians, nurses, and staff to guide them through their very own personalized treatment plan.

Collaborative Treatment Ensures Exceptional Care
During a patient’s treatment journey, a specialized team of cancer care experts stay connected to provide both the physical treatment and emotional support through all phases of treatment. This team of physicians, surgeons, oncology nurses, nurse navigators, social workers, palliative care specialists, dieticians, and rehabilitation experts collaborate to meet the unique needs of each patient across the continuum of care.

Care coordination is essential, so every week Torrance Memorial provides an opportunity for physicians to review individual cancer patient cases, discuss various treatment options, and review latest research findings pertinent to the cases being presented. This meeting, called Tumor Board, includes oncology specialists from surgery, pathology, radiation oncology, reconstructive surgery, medical oncology, pulmonology, and urology. Oncology nurse navigators, other members of the oncology team, and the patient’s primary care and treating physicians typically attend Tumor Board.

Cancer Resource Center
Staffed with advanced practice oncology registered nurses who specialize in patient and family teaching, the Cancer Resource Center at Torrance Memorial provides education about all aspects of cancer diagnosis, treatment and recovery, as well as patient navigation, advocacy, and referral to supportive services.

The goal of the advanced practice nurses in the Cancer Resource Center is to empower cancer patients and their loved ones to get the best possible care as quickly as possible. All services of the Cancer Resource Center are free and open to anyone.

Services
Prevention
Strategies to lower one’s cancer risk include:
- Education about diet, exercise, sun protection, and other healthy living choices
- Screening mammograms to detect breast changes before they become cancer
- Breast self-exam training

Screening
Detecting cancer early leads to the best possible outcome. Our technologies include:
- Colonoscopy and virtual colonoscopy
- CT lung cancer screening
- Digital x-ray and mammography
- MRI including dedicated breast MRI
- Ultrasound
- Laboratory analysis of blood to detect changes associated with malignancy

Diagnosis
Accurate and timely diagnosis is essential once an abnormality is detected.
- State-of-the-art imaging including combined PET/CT to determine the extent of disease
- Advanced imaging to obtain tissue specimens for biopsy using minimally invasive techniques
- Sophisticated tissue testing including biomolecular and genetic analysis
- Comprehensive review of health history, symptoms, lab tests, imaging studies, and family history
- Second opinion review and analysis by outside recognized experts, as indicated

(continued on other side)
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(continued on other side)
Treatment
If cancer is detected, a range of specialized treatments is available, including:

- Surgery, including the latest in minimally invasive and robot assisted techniques
- Reconstructive surgery to ensure the best possible function and cosmetic outcome
- Wide range of chemotherapy options including targeted agents, biotherapy and treatments that utilize the patient’s own immune system to fight tumor cells
- Sophisticated interventional radiology techniques to treat disease and manage symptoms
- State-of-the-art, highly targeted radiation therapy including: high dose rate brachytherapy, advanced CT positioning, IMRT, stereotactic radiosurgery, and TrueBeam™ radiotherapy and radiosurgery system
- Oncology-certified and chemotherapy-certified nursing staff
- Referral to clinical trials, as appropriate
- Advanced care planning, symptom management and care in the home by the Palliative Care, Home Health, and Hospice services

Supportive Services

Supportive Services (continued)

Emotional Support
Information about community support groups and individual counseling resources to cope with the emotional impact of cancer.

Navigation
The Vasek and Anna Maria Polak Breast Diagnostic Center nurses and the Cancer Resource Center advanced practice nurses provide guidance and coaching to ensure patient and family understanding of treatment recommendations, care coordination, and treatment decisions that are compatible with the patient’s values and preferences.

Resources
Cancer can affect many aspects of a person’s life so learning about financial assistance, transportation, and care in the home allows the patient to focus on fighting their disease.

Appearance
Torrance Memorial offers its Woman to Woman Image Enhancement Center and the American Cancer Society’s Look Good…Feel Good program to assist women dealing with hair loss, as well as information on obtaining a wig and post-mastectomy garments.

Rehabilitation
The Torrance Memorial Rehab Department helps patients recover from cancer and the effects of treatment including therapists who specialize in lymphedema management.

Survivorship
The Cancer Survivorship Program offers individualized information and education to cancer patients at the completion of active treatment to help them transition beyond the cancer diagnosis to wellness.

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