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An Overview of Oncology Nursing at UC San Diego Health

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Nurses with interest in specializing in oncology nursing have an amazing array of opportunities at UC San Diego Health. Established in 1978, Moore's Cancer Center is ranked among the top 50 oncology programs in the nation and is the San Diego region's only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. This designation is reserved for centers with the highest achievements in cancer research, clinical care, education and community contributions. The Moore's Cancer Center's (MCC) unique blend of cancer research and patient care is transforming cancer prevention, detection and treatment.

In November 2017, the Jacobs Medical Center (JMC) opened at the La Jolla campus featuring the Foster Pavilion, 108 all-private, beds focused on surgical oncology, medical oncology, blood and marrow transplant, neuro-oncology and palliative care. All beds outside of the ICU are progressive care beds where staff bring the necessary equipment and training to the patient versus moving the patient from floor to floor. In addition, there are 36 intensive care beds in Jacobs Medical Center that serve critically ill patients with both Oncology and non-Oncology medical, surgical and neurological diagnoses.

Both outpatient and inpatient care settings provide oncology nurses the opportunity to collaborate across disciplines. Because every cancer – and every patient – is different, nurses are an integral part of each multi-disciplinary team, involving specialists in medical, surgical and radiation oncology, pathology, diagnostic radiology, nuclear medicine, social work, palliative care,



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and genetic counseling. There are approximately 600 nurses working in Oncology services at MCC and JMC. Over 250 RNs, LVNs and Advanced Practice Providers (NPs and PAs) work at MCC and satellite locations located in Hillcrest, Encinitas and Vista. Over 350 RNs and LVNs work in the Oncology service line in the inpatient setting. Oncology nurses ensure appropriate care coordination, provide education and resources to facilitate informed decision making, and timely access to quality health and psychosocial care throughout all phases of their care.

Moore's Cancer Center includes:

Infusion Center: Open 363 days a year, Infusion Center RNs and APPs oversee cancer and non-cancer-related infusions and other treatments. Each Infusion Center RN must have Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Chemotherapy/Biotherapy certification

Multi-Specialty Clinic: As essential members of more than 14 Specialty Care Teams, nurses ensure care coordination, management of patient toxicities, and ongoing patient and family education.

Blood and Marrow Transplant: The Blood and Marrow Transplant Program performed its first autologous transplant in 1989. Since

then, we have performed over 1800 autologous and 980 allogeneic (related, unrelated and cord blood) transplants. Our multidisciplinary team consists of attending physicians, advanced practice providers, transplant coordinators, clinic nurse case managers, social workers, quality nurse, data management and financial teams. We also work closely with Apheresis, Stem Cell Processing Laboratory, Infusion Center, Radiation Oncology, Procedure Suite, Operating Room, inpatient nursing, pharmacy and infectious disease.

Radiation Oncology: Utilizing their knowledge of radiobiology in the treatment of various forms of cancer, nurses provide care coordination, recognize the risk factors and implement nursing interventions for the common side effects of treatment.

Jacobs Medical Center includes:

JMC 3GH Medical Surgical Intensive Care Unit: a 24-bed ICU caring for medical/surgical, oncology, obstetrics, and abdominal transplant patients. They also service as the code team and rapid response team for all JMC units.

JMC 4th floor Surgical Oncology Unit: a 36-bed progressive care unit serving a variety of surgical services: Surgical Oncology, Colorectal

Surgery, Gynecology Oncology, Urology, Head and Neck Surgery, and Solid Organ Transplant.

JMC 5FG Medical Oncology/Palliative Care Unit: a 24-bed progressive care unit focused on medical oncology, and palliative care. The unit features a 12-bed pod that is co-managed by the Hospital Medicine and Palliative Care Teams.

JMC 6th floor Blood and Marrow Transplant (BMT) Unit: a 36-bed progressive care unit that is all positive pressure allowing patients who are immunocompromised to move throughout the unit. This unit also features a patient gym to optimize wellness among the BMT patients who frequently have long inpatient stays.

In addition to providing extraordinary care, several MCC and JMC RNs and APPs have been selected for poster and panel presentations at ONS Congress and other national oncology associations. Over 50% of APPs and RNs have earned advanced certification (OCN, AOCNP, AOCNS and so forth). Shared governance councils are robust and engaged in the Oncology service line, providing opportunities for professional, clinical and leadership growth in amplifying Magnet principles. We are proud to be oncology nurses!