

How does the NCCCP pilot compare to other NCI community cancer initiatives?

The NCCCP shares many of the same goals as other NCI community cancer programs, including increasing access to clinical trials among underserved populations and reducing health disparities. The NCCCP is unique in that it will operate in community hospitals in geographically diverse areas where NCI can learn directly from the communities it serves.

What are the expected benefits to patients?

The sites will provide patients with comprehensive cancer screening, prevention, treatment, and palliative care. Patients diagnosed with cancer will receive medical, surgical, and radiation oncology services and will have access to NCI-sponsored clinical trials. In addition, NCI-trained patient navigators will assist patients in arranging financial support, scheduling transportation services, coordinating records transfers, and facilitating access to other services.

What are the expected benefits to participating hospitals and communities?

The pilot is expected to improve quality of care at the sites by enhancing clinical research expertise. In addition, the pilot sites will benefit from staff training in cancer management, stronger links to NCI-designated Cancer Centers, genetic and molecular testing capabilities, and outreach support to develop closer ties to underserved populations.

What are the qualifications of the pilot sites and how will they be evaluated?

The pilot sites are community hospital-based cancer centers that offer medical, surgical, and radiation oncology care; manage a patient volume of more than 1,000 new cancer cases each year; enroll patients in clinical trials; and take part in outreach to underserved populations. An independent committee will evaluate the pilot sites on an ongoing basis, and NCI will use recommendations to refine the program and open the way for a national network of community cancer centers in the future.

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The pilot sites include eight free-standing community hospitals and six additional hospitals operated by healthcare systems. The hospitals, their locations, and their cancer centers are:

- Billings Clinic, Billings, Mont. (Billings Clinic Cancer Center)
- Hartford Hospital, Hartford, Conn. (Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center)
- St. Joseph's / Candler, Savannah, Ga. (Nancy N. and J.C. Lewis Cancer & Research Pavilion)
- Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, Baton Rouge, La. (Our Lady of the Lake Cancer Center and Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center)
- Sanford USD Medical Center, Sioux Falls, S.D. (Sanford Cancer Center)
- Spartanburg Regional Hospital, Spartanburg, S.C. (Gibbs Regional Cancer Center)
- St. Joseph Hospital, Orange, Calif. (St. Joseph Hospital Cancer Center)
- Christiana Hospital, Newark, Del. (Helen F. Graham Cancer Center at Christiana Care)
- Ascension Health of St. Louis, Mo., will operate sites at:
 - St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital, Indianapolis, Ind. (St. Vincent Oncology Center)
 - Columbia St. Mary's, Milwaukee, Wisc. (Columbia St. Mary's Cancer Center)
 - Brackenridge Hospital, Austin, Texas (Shivers Center)
- Catholic Health Initiatives of Denver, Colo., will operate sites at:
 - Penrose-St. Francis Health Services, Colorado Springs, Colo. (Penrose Cancer Center)
 - St. Joseph Medical Center, Towson, Md. (St. Joseph Cancer Institute)
 - A coordinated regional program in Nebraska sponsored by Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney (Good Samaritan Cancer Center); St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center in Lincoln (St. Elizabeth Cancer Center); and St. Francis Medical Center in Grand Island (St. Francis Cancer Treatment Center).