

# Lancaster General Health

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#### **Profile**

Lancaster General Health is a regional not-for-profit \$1.3B member of Penn Medicine located in Lancaster, PA.

- 8,950+ employees
- 788 licensed beds
- 20 outpatient facilities and 64 physician practices
- 900+ physicians and dentists on the Medical and Dental Staff
- Lancaster General Health Physicians: more than 380 physicians, and more than 300 advanced practice providers

Lancaster General Health was re-validated as Stage 7 on the EMRAM and O-EMRAM in September of 2019.

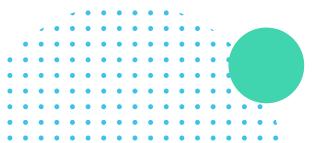
## The Challenge

Our oncology practice entered the CMS Oncology Care Model (OCM) in 2016. In addition to addressing the specific needs of the OCM program, our team was concerned about the cost effectiveness of care rendered, how to build an internal dataset rather than rely exclusively on retrospective CMS data, and how to adapt their workflow to meet the OCM program requirements while providing a usable dataset for monitoring their efforts.

The OCM program itself includes 14 quality measures (QMs), and requires adoption of the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) 12-point Cancer Care Management Plan.

At the outset, our spending on Medicare oncology patients was nearly 10% higher than the median for other OCM practices, despite a lower than median admission rate, higher use of hospice and greater than 90th percentile patient satisfaction, largely due to expensive pharmaceuticals.

The goals were primarily to implement the IOM Cancer Management plan, and by involving patients in shared decision making that included cost estimations, address (where appropriate and consensual) the high cost of pharmaceuticals. A compelling belief among the oncology team leadership has been that good data drives best decision-making.

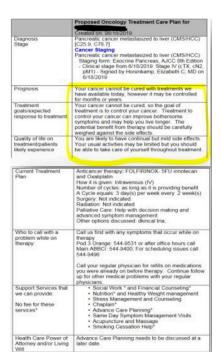


#### Implementation Overview

**Key participants involved in the process:** Elizabeth Horenkamp MD (Managing Physician, Cancer Institute) Nikolas Buescher (Executive Director, Cancer Institute)



The team began by creating a daily huddle process, and using data assembled from a variety of sources, review performance on the 14 QMs. The data included a mix of in-Epic reports, generated SQL-based reports and rapidly re-adjusted amalgamation/visualization into Excel. This interactive review, an illustration of Lancaster General's commitment to LEAN methodology, stimulated ongoing process improvement efforts at the point of care as well as toward improved care coordination. Clear provider attribution, defined as placing the provider on the Epic Care Team, formed the basis for all subsequent performance reporting.



The Care Plan is the central focus of the OCM model. The 12 major features include: diagnosis, prognosis, treatment goals, initial treatment plan, expected response to treatment, treatment benefits and harms, quality of life and patient's likely experience, which clinicians have responsibility for which parts of care plan, advance care planning, plan to address psychosocial needs, survivorship plan, and estimated total and out-of-pocket costs.

Epic's episode of care functionality combined with Beacon cancer module provided the mechanism for discrete staging of cancers and treatment plan. The huddle teams focused on patient-friendly wording for prognosis, treatment goals, quality of life and team contact information. Close collaboration with social services and other care coordination/support resources established a network of wraparound care.

QUOTE FROM ORGANIZATION EXECUTIVE:



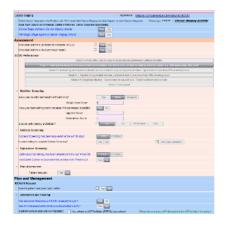
Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health strives to deliver consistent and reliable outcomes and experiences for our patients. We engage our physicians, employees, and partners to achieve these results for the communities we serve. HIMSS provides the standards and best practices to optimize our electronic health record which allow us to drive innovation and to ensure quality and safety in all care environments."

-Jan L. Bergen, President & Chief Executive Officer, Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health





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Advance care planning (ACP) documentation in Epic was emphasized. Prompting for missing ACP documents, and weekly dashboard review of ACP completions rates were added in addition to the baseline Epic header notification. Trained ACP conversation facilitators were employed to engage the patient more deeply than physician time constraints would typically allow.

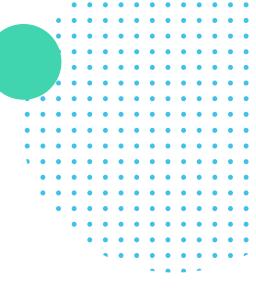
Cost of care, particularly pharmaceutical costs, were detailed for the patient, allowing the opportunity to discuss the range of options and anticipated effectiveness relative to patient cost. Engaging the patient in shared decision making at this level allows patients to make informed decisions about the trajectory of their care.

Treatment plans are constructed from evidence-based guidelines, developed in conjunction with oncology colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania, and accessed via a link from within Epic. Point of care tools included an enhanced Rooming tool to guide both nurses and clinicians through each encounter so that important points of care were not overlooked due to competing demands. By creating this functionality, standard work protocol lists were enforced and distinct data was captured for analytics.

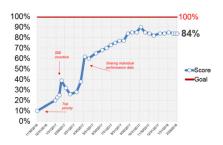
Orange elements are completed by clinic staff. Blue elements must be completed by the Provider.

ONE SENTENCE THAT ENCAPSULATES THE EXPERIENCE AS A WHOLE:

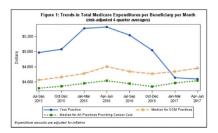
Stage 7 recertification compels us to validate that our health information systems are not only technically viable but also usable and effective, as evidenced through process change and adoption to improve the care of our patients.

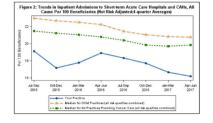


## Resulting Value / ROI



Cancer Care Plan completion rates were monitored over time in response to several interventions including linkage to financial incentives (modes, short term boost) and competitive performance data sharing (marked, sustained improvement). The Care Plans were regarded by clinicians and patients as providing significant added value to the care experience.





Overall spend has decreased to levels below the OCM median based on last published OCM data. Internal data indicates spending levels remain similar to late 2017.

Admissions rates, already low at the outset, have decreased further. Internal data indicates spending levels remain similar to late 2017.

#### **Lessons Learned**

- 1. Clinician engagement on process transformation is difficult.
- 2. Data visualization is also a challenge, especially during the period of rapid revisions to workflow.
- 3. A robust global "Oncology dashboard" that provides more fully automated data collection and summarization would reduce the manual effort required to consolidate and visualize trends during huddles.
- 4. Physician documentation options across locations of care delivery (office vs hospital) can be difficult to integrate into a holistic view of care across the continuum.
- 5. Ongoing re-investment in Epic enhancements for oncology care and analytics can keep tools up to date and optimally useful over time.



