Exceptional cancer care close to home

Aurora Cancer Care
We are AdvocateAuroraHealth
With Aurora Cancer Care, you'll have a multidisciplinary team of specialists who provide the education, diagnostic resources, treatment and support you need to fight cancer on all fronts. Our cancer nurse navigators will help you coordinate your care, tests and support resources, as well as act as your health care advocate.
Our board-certified, fellowship-trained general, breast, gynecologic, colorectal, thoracic, neuro, head and neck and musculoskeletal surgical oncologists provide the most advanced therapies and surgical treatments available, including minimally invasive options that reduce recovery times and get you back faster to what matters most in life.

Our comprehensive resources include:

- Minimally invasive surgery
  - Laparoscopic surgical approaches for cancer and benign conditions
  - Robotic-assisted surgery for treating esophageal, lung, gynecologic, urologic, pancreatic, gastrointestinal and head and neck issues, in addition to performing cranial and spine neurosurgery
  - Video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery (VATS)
- The only Robotic Thoracic Surgery Training Center in Wisconsin
- Sentinel lymph node biopsies to determine if cancer has spread to your lymphatic system
- Nipple-sparing mastectomy
- Transoral laser surgery
- Microsurgery
- Plastic/reconstructive surgery
- Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy (HIPEC), a concentrated and heated treatment delivered directly to the abdomen during surgery
- Intraoperative Radiation Therapy (IORT), which delivers a concentrated dose of radiation to the tumor site during surgery, immediately after a cancer tumor has been removed
- NanoKnife®, which uses electrical currents to destroy cancerous tumor cells
Medical oncology and hematology

The medical management of your cancer care is provided by our board-certified medical oncologists and hematologists to address all aspects of your health.

- All board-certified medical oncologists with subspecialization in specific types of cancers
- Board-certified hematologists with expertise in cancer and benign diseases of the blood
- Immunotherapy treatment options that stimulate the body’s immune response to fight disease
- Chemotherapy infusion areas with your comfort and support in mind
- Clinical trials through the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP)
- Experienced nurses in chemotherapy and biotherapy administration that are certified by the National Oncology Nurse Society (ONS)
- Autologous bone marrow stem cell transplant, which uses a patient’s own stem cells as part of their treatment

Radiation oncology

Radiation therapy is an important tool for the treatment of most types of cancer and even several noncancerous conditions. Our board-certified radiation oncologists are specifically trained to consult, recommend and oversee all aspects of your radiation therapy treatment, whether alone or in combination with surgery and/or chemotherapy.

The Varian TrueBeam® Radiation System is part of our state-of-the-art care:

- We use a fully integrated system for image-guided radiotherapy (IGRT) and radiosurgery.
- TrueBeam treats cancer wherever radiation treatment is necessary, including lung, breast, prostate and head and neck.
- IGRT takes an X-ray before each radiation treatment. The images help your radiation oncologist to more precisely target existing cancers while sparing nearby healthy tissue from potential damage and reducing the risk of side effects.
- Intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) is a procedure that uses linear accelerators to safely and painlessly deliver precise radiation doses to a tumor while minimizing the dose to surrounding normal tissue.
- RapidArc is an advanced form of IMRT that uses software and an advanced linear accelerator to deliver IMRT treatments up to eight times faster than was previously possible.
- 3D conformal radiation therapy, which sculpts radiation beams to the shape of a tumor, provides a more precise delivery of radiation designed to avoid healthy surrounding tissues and organs.

Other forms of radiation therapies:

- CyberKnife® Robotic Radiosurgery System is a noninvasive treatment option for tumors anywhere in the body that delivers beams of high-dose radiation to tumors with extreme accuracy.
- Accelerated partial breast brachytherapy, which treats cancer with radioactive implants carefully placed into the tissue.
- Intraoperative Radiation Therapy (IORT) delivers a concentrated dose of radiation to the tumor site during surgery, immediately after a cancer tumor has been removed.

With Aurora Cancer Care, our nurses are compassionate caregivers and dedicated experts in cancer care, treatment and side-effects management. And they’re with you every step of the way.
Interventional oncology

Interventional oncology is the use of image-guided, minimally invasive techniques by fellowship-trained, board-certified interventional radiologists. Interventional oncology approaches can be used in conjunction with surgery or with patients who are not candidates for surgery.

Our interventional radiologists perform minimally invasive oncology procedures such as the following:

- Radiofrequency ablation (RFA) is a nonsurgical, localized treatment that is easier on the patient than other therapies. It kills tumors cells with heat while sparing healthy tissue.
- Chemoembolization is a minimally invasive treatment for liver cancer that can be used when there is too much tumor mass to treat with RFA, when the tumor is in a location that cannot be treated with RFA, or in combination with RFA or other treatments.
- Cryoablation is similar to RFA, but uses an extremely cold gas instead of heat to kill the tumor.
- Yttrium-90 radioembolization uses radioactive microspheres to treat both primary liver tumors and metastatic ones that have spread to the liver by delivering the isotopes directly to the tumor.
- Microwave ablation uses heat-generating electromagnetic waves to destroy tumors.
- NanoKnife® uses electrical currents to destroy cancerous tumor cells.

Together with the other cancer team members, we provide the most advanced, minimally invasive approaches to cancer treatment available. Most interventional procedures are either outpatient or require an overnight stay in the hospital with a brief recovery time.

Subspecialty programs

- Bladder cancer
- Bone and soft tissue sarcomas
- Brain cancer and benign tumors
- Breast cancer
- Cancer and benign conditions of the blood and bone marrow
- Esophageal cancer
- Gastrointestinal cancer
- GYN cancer
- Head and neck cancer
- Kidney cancer
- Liver metastasis
- Lung cancer
- Pancreatic and neuroendocrine cancers
- Prostate cancer
- Skin cancer/melanoma
- Testicular cancer
- Thyroid cancer

Additional supportive services

- Cancer nurse navigators
- Aurora at Home
- Genetic counseling and testing
- Clinical research trials
- Cancer rehabilitation
- Supportive counseling services
- Dietary counseling
- Integrative medicine including massage, Reiki and acupuncture
- Art therapy
- Neuropsychology
- Social services
- Spiritual care
Cancer nurse navigators

Facing a cancer diagnosis can be overwhelming to you and your loved ones. Once diagnosed, you are often presented with large amounts of new information and have to quickly make a decision on treatment plans. Cancer nurse navigators are nurses who serve as advocates, helping to guide you through the health care system and provide emotional support throughout diagnosis, treatment and survivorship. Our cancer nurse navigators will listen to your concerns, help you understand what to expect of any tests or treatments, answer questions, and link you to the resources you need to make informed decisions about your care.

Aurora at Home

Aurora Cancer Care is supported by Aurora at Home (formerly Aurora Visiting Nurse Association of Wisconsin), which provides services for people in their homes. For more than 100 years, Aurora at Home has provided home care with compassion, professionalism and clinical excellence.

It’s the most comprehensive source of home care services in eastern Wisconsin and offers:

- Health care at home
- In-home health monitoring
- Home medical equipment and supplies
- Palliative care
- Hospice care
- IV/infusion
- Home therapies

Genetic counseling and testing

While all cancer involves changes in the genes of a cell, not all cancers are hereditary. In fact, it’s estimated that only 5 to 10 percent of all cancers are due to an inherited gene mutation.

If you carry a mutation in a cancer-susceptibility gene, you have a significantly increased lifetime risk of developing cancer compared to the general population. By taking into consideration your personal and family medical histories, a doctor can identify who in your family would benefit from a hereditary cancer risk assessment.

If you and/or your family members are found to be at an increased risk, the genetic counselor will provide you with education on steps that can be taken to decrease your risk of developing cancer, including proactive monitoring and testing for the disease.

The Aurora Hereditary Cancer Prevention and Management Center is a multidisciplinary clinic that provides follow-up care for families with complex or difficult hereditary cancer conditions.

Our genetic counselors can help you assess your individual risk and give you valuable information necessary to make decisions regarding your treatment plan.
Clinical research trials

Often, the most leading-edge medicines and treatments are part of ongoing clinical trials. A clinical trial is an organized test of medicines, devices and new treatment options. They rely on volunteer patients who try new or changed treatment and who may experience health benefits as a result. It’s a particularly good time to consider a clinical trial, because in 2014 Aurora Cancer Care received a grant from the NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP). As a result, we have access to hundreds of clinical trials, providing the potential to deliver positive outcomes for patients. NCORP clinical trials cover the entire cancer care continuum, including prevention, screening, treatment, imaging and survivorship. They also focus on medical, surgical, interventional and radiation oncology treatments. Trials help us discover what’s next in cancer treatment.

Clinical cancer trials show us what we need to know next as we seek new breakthroughs in cancer treatment.

Cancer rehabilitation

The goal of the cancer rehabilitation program is to maximize your independence from diagnosis through treatment and survivorship. Rehabilitation specialists will work with you to evaluate your physical strength and design a treatment plan that enables you to develop strong functional and coping skills. The cancer rehabilitation program provides care for many conditions, including acute and chronic pain, impaired mobility, lymphedema, safety/cognitive concerns and decreased ability to perform activities of daily living (ADL).

Supportive counseling services

A diagnosis of cancer greatly impacts a person’s life. It can change how you feel, affect relationships with your family and friends and disrupt your plans for the future. Many people find that in this difficult time, anxieties can be eased through caring, sensitive support from counseling professionals. The Aurora Cancer Care professionals understand that the medical aspect of cancer is only part of the disease’s impact. While medical expertise is essential, our counselors realize that professional support to help cope with the emotional aspect is invaluable as well. To help you and your family face the disease and fight it, we offer a wide variety of comprehensive counseling services, including individual, family and group counseling, and assistance with fatigue, pain, insomnia, appetite disturbances, anxiety and depression.

Dietary counseling

Cancer treatment may include chemotherapy, radiation therapy, hormone therapy, surgery or a combination of these. Side effects from treatments may affect your appetite or make it difficult to eat, digest and metabolize food and nutrients normally. Our dietitians will work with you to identify nutrition concerns and develop meal plans that address the problems always taking your medications and food preferences into consideration. Dietary counseling and support can help you make the right food choices, which, in turn, will help you maintain your energy level during treatment.
Integrative medicine

For a person diagnosed with cancer, integrative medicine—including therapeutic massage—can bring a sense of well-being in many ways:

- Physiologically, massage improves circulation, relieves muscle tension, stimulates the immune system and relieves chronic pain.
- Emotionally, massage reduces anxiety levels, enhances self-image and satisfies the need for a caring touch.
- Likewise, massage can help reduce stress, anxiety and pain. The hands-on techniques of massage therapy and chair massage stimulate the release of endorphins to relieve pain and serotonin to facilitate a relaxation response.
- We also offer Reiki and acupuncture for those looking to incorporate alternative therapies into their wellness plan. Often referred to as touch or energy therapy, Reiki takes into consideration the mind-body connection or the patient’s emotions and personal life circumstances. It is a noninvasive, relaxing modality that works well as an adjunct to other therapies.

Art therapy

Art therapy has shown amazing benefits for cancer patients, their loved ones and caretakers. It promotes stress relief and pain reduction while developing coping skills and promoting emotional stability.

Neuropsychology

Clinical neuropsychology is a sub-field of psychology concerned with the applied science of brain-behavior relationships. Clinical neuropsychologists use this knowledge in the assessment, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of patients across the lifespan with neurological, medical, neurodevelopmental and psychiatric conditions, as well as other cognitive and learning disorders.

Social services

A cancer diagnosis can result in concerns related to work, finances, insurance coverage, advanced care planning and the need to identify and link with community resources. The Aurora Cancer Care team includes social workers who understand these challenges and are available to provide support—including help with financial counseling—when you need help in these areas.

Spiritual care

In times of crisis and uncertainty, spirituality can be one of your most important strengths. We have chaplains who are available to provide a supportive presence to you, your family and friends. They offer consultation and counsel regarding spiritual, emotional and ethical matters, as well as provide respectful spiritual support and care to people of all faiths and beliefs.

The Aurora Cancer Care team has chaplains who are available to provide a supportive presence to you, your family and friends.
Aurora Cancer Care is an accredited program with commendation by the National Commission on Cancer. Our medical oncologists also are certified by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Quality Oncology Practice Initiative. Our Aurora Comprehensive Breast Care Centers are accredited by the American College of Surgeons National Accreditation Program of Breast Centers (NAPBC). Our Autologous Stem Cell Transplant program is approved by the National Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy.