

COMMUNITY CANCER INSTITUTE

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why did Community build Community Cancer Institute?

Previously, cancer patients in central California had to coordinate care between several doctors at locations throughout the Fresno/Clovis area to get the care they needed. And too often they felt they had to leave the Valley completely to get the best treatments. Now, Community Cancer Institute offers the same treatments as cancer programs in larger cities and consolidates most outpatient services to one location, making it easier for patients and physicians to fight cancer quickly.

2. What is the vision for Community Cancer Institute?

Opening its doors in August 2018, Community Cancer Institute keeps patients close to their support system during treatment and will eventually be counted among the nation's best. It has the level of treatments and technology previously only found in larger cities. We plan to become the first National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated center in the San Joaquin Valley – only 11 such centers exist in California.

3. What makes Community Cancer Institute special?

Community Cancer Institute is equipped with state-of-the-art technology not offered elsewhere in the Valley that can speed up cancer diagnoses, capture clearer images and deliver treatment with pinpoint accuracy. It is the first institute in the Valley to conduct research in partnership with one of the top medical schools in the country – University of San Francisco (UCSF). And one of the most significant aspects of Community Cancer Institute is how patients are guided through their care. They are able to get their clinic visits, lab work, imaging, chemotherapy, radiation therapy and emotional support all in one place - eliminating the need for patients to travel to multiple locations to see different providers. Multidisciplinary cancer conferences and nurse navigators involve and keep patients informed every step of the way.

4. What is multidisciplinary cancer care?

Multidisciplinary cancer care allows newly diagnosed cancer patients to have their specific case reviewed and discussed with a panel of oncology experts. Specialists present treatment options and help the patient choose the plan that's best for him or her. Having so many specialists in one place makes this collaboration possible. This approach gives the patient an active role in making choices, helps physician specialists work more effectively as a team and saves valuable time between diagnoses and treatment. We have multidisciplinary conferences for the following cancer sites and are planning for more in the future.

- Breast
- Neurology
- Lung
- Hematology
- Hepatobiliary/GI

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5. What is the role of a nurse navigator?

Nurse navigators help patients from their initial cancer diagnosis through survivorship. They remove barriers to care, help patients understand and prepare for their treatment, as well as facilitate their treatment plan. The navigator is the patient's main point of contact for questions and concerns and is a vital link between the patient and the healthcare team. We offer navigation programs for the following cancer sites:

- Breast
- Gastrointestinal (GI)
- Gynecologic
- Head & Neck
- Hematology
- Lung
- Neuro Oncology
- Survivorship

6. What is the benefit to receiving treatment locally?

Having to drive a long distance for cancer care slows down the treatment process and adds emotional, physical, financial and logistical strain to an already stressful situation. Our oncology experts at the Community Cancer Institute offer the same treatments and technology as cancer programs in larger cities and is the first in the Valley to conduct research in partnership with one of the top medical schools in the country – University of San Francisco (UCSF).

7. How is Community Cancer Institute different from other local options?

No other place in the Valley can match the breadth of expertise, level of technology and patient-centric approach of the Community Cancer Institute. The backing of one of the nation's top hospitals (UCSF) and the region's largest healthcare network (Community Medical Centers) allows Community to do more than just fight the disease. A full spectrum of clinical services and patient/family support groups are also included:

Oncology Support Services

- ✓ Genetics Counseling
- ✓ Nurse Navigation
- ✓ Palliative Care
- ✓ Rehabilitative Care
- ✓ Social Work
- ✓ Specialized Nutritional Care
- ✓ Speech Language Pathology

Information & Support Groups

- ✓ New Patient Orientation Meetings
- ✓ Brain Tumor Support Group
- ✓ Breast Cancer Support Group
- ✓ Man to Man Prostate Support Group
- ✓ ACS Look Good, Feel Better support group

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8. What's inside the Community Cancer Institute?

FLOOR 1	FLOOR 2	FLOOR 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radiation Oncology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CyberKnife M6 ○ Fully equipped all-digital PET/CT scanner and 3T MRI suites ○ High Dose Rate (HDR) brachytherapy vault ○ Linear Accelerators – 2 Elekta Infinity Units and 1 Varian TrueBeam • Reception area with ambassadors • Laboratory • Resource Center • Serenity Room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Oncology • Exam/consult rooms (42) • Consult-only rooms (6) • Oncology Support Services including navigation, social work, palliative care, genetics, and speech language pathology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Open infusion chairs (48) ○ Injection chairs (4) ○ Private infusion room ○ Compounding pharmacy • Clinical Research, which is managed by UCSF. • Cancer Registry

9. What types (sites) of cancer are treated at Community Cancer Institute?

- Bladder Cancer
- Blood Cancer
- Bone Cancer
- Brain Cancer
- Breast Cancer
- Central Nervous System
- Colon Cancer
- Gastrointestinal Cancer
- Gynecologic Cancer
- Head & Neck Cancer
- Liver Cancer
- Lung Cancer
- Kidney Cancer
- Melanoma/Sarcoma
- Prostate Cancer
- Skin Cancer
- Solid Tumors

10. What types of cancer conditions and disorders are treated?

- Anemia
- Bone Marrow Disorders
- Hemophilia
- Hodgkin's & Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- Leukemia
- Leukocytosis
- Platelet Disorders
- Polycythemia
- Sickle Cell Disease
- Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia Purpura (TTP)

11. What technology is available at Community Cancer Institute?

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- **Full-Digital PET/CT Scanner** – The world's first and only true digital PET/CT system. 1 of only 3 units in California and one of the first 10 in the US
 - New technology that can image both bone and soft tissue at the same time
 - Benefits: This digital scanner is faster so patients spend less time in the scanner. The images are sharper and clearer than ever before which helps your physician team more effectively detect potential concerns that may not have been visible with older units.
- **CyberKnife M6** – newest version
 - Radiation treatment that allows physicians to treat hard-to-reach tumors that may have been impossible to treat in the past. Targets tumors with high-dose radiation using pinpoint accuracy from different angles.
Benefits: CyberKnife treatment destroys tumors and minimizes damage to surrounding healthy tissue. It can significantly reduce treatment length from five days a week over the course of six to eight weeks, to just a few treatments spanning five days or less. Most patients go home right after CyberKnife treatment and immediately resume normal activities.
- **Linear Accelerators (2 Elekta Infinity units and 1 Varian TrueBeam unit)**
 - Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy with image guidance (IMRT/IGRT)
 - Used to treat all parts/organs of the body by delivering high-energy x-rays or electrons to the region of the patient's tumor.
 - Benefits: Treatment plans are able to conform to the shape of the tumor; destroying tumors and minimizes damage to surrounding healthy tissue.
- **Full-digital 3Tesla MRI Scanner**
 - This state-of-the-art scanner uses a large magnetic field which will provide higher resolution images, and for certain cancer sites reduce or eliminate the need for additional CT scans.
 - Benefits: This full-digital scanner is faster and provides higher resolution images, reducing the length of time for imaging. With the images being sharper and clearer, physicians are better able to detect soft tissue cancers than what would be possible with a traditional analog scanners.