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New Step in Serving Our Patients Better – Patient Advisory Board

At TCA we value the opinion of our patients. It is in this spirit that we have established a *Patient Advisory Board* (PAB). This PAB will assist us in capturing the patient view point of TCA, as it is today and many of the changes we hope to make moving forward. Although all of the patient representative positions on this board are currently full, we certainly value the advice and suggestions of all of our patients. If you have an idea that you would like to share or would like to fill a position that might open up in the future, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer DeLong at 214.739.1706, ext. 218.

TCA Care Connection

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Texas Cancer Associates Quarterly Patient Newsletter

Changes in How Cancer Treatment is Administered

In the past chemotherapy was given nearly exclusively intravenously (IV). Thanks to progress in cancer treatments, in 1998 the first oral chemotherapy was approved by the FDA. While most chemo drugs are still only injected through an IV, there are now many types of chemotherapy and anti-cancer medications that can be taken in the form of a liquid, tablet, or capsule by mouth. This change has been brought about by the creation of chemotherapy formulations that are able to be absorbed by the digestive system. Oral chemotherapy, when indicated, is just as potent as IV chemotherapy. Unfortunately, this easier route of administering medication is not without many of the common side effects associated with most cancer medications.

The evolution of oral chemotherapy medications

means decreased time in the doctor's office for patients who would normally have to stay for administration. It can be taken at home easily without the need to go to the infusion clinic for treatment. The worry among Oncologists with home cancer medications is that it is difficult to know for sure that patients are taking it properly. Specific instructions must be followed by patients including when and how often the medication should be taken, as well as for how long. Mistakes in taking these oral anticancer treatments can be serious, including taking too much medication or not taking enough, both of which can affect the patient's health and the medication's ability to kill cancer cells. This is why it is vitally important patients on oral cancer medications understand exactly how to take their medication, and report any problems.



Meet Greg Hansen, Scheduling Coordinator!

Greg has been with TCA for close to two years now and has filled a number of different roles. His current home is behind the front office, working as our expert Scheduling Coordinator. Greg was born in Hawaii but got to Texas as fast as he could where he was raised here in Dallas. He then went off to Montana for College and then back to Dallas to be close to his family. At TCA, Greg schedules all of the outside scans and appointments for our patients. Thanks, Greg, for all you do!

Announcements

~ This year, TCA is, once again, a sponsor for the **North Texas Race for the Cure** in Plano on June 2nd. We will also be celebrating **Cancer Survivor Day** with Presbyterian Dallas on June 3rd and here in the office on June 4th! Watch the bulletin board in the lobby for more information.

~ You can now sign-up, on our website- www.txcan.com, to **receive the Patient Newsletter by e-mail** !

~ TCA hosts a monthly Chemotherapy introduction seminar called "**LUNCH and LEARN: CHEMOTHERAPY AND YOU**" Watch the bulletin board in the lobby for more information.

~ Visit our **Resource Room** for the latest information on medications, prosthetics, support services and other helpful topics! We now have a **research computer** available in the resource room for your educational use.

Current Research Trials

- Breast Cancer
- Non– Small Cell Lung Cancer
- Myelodysplastic Syndrome
- Studies through Presbyterian Hospital

Please speak with your Provider for more information on these and other research trials.