

10 Qualities to Look for in a Cancer Care Provider

When you or a loved one needs treatment for a cancer or a blood disorder, finding the right care provider can feel overwhelming. Hematology-Oncology Associates of Central New York has been a leader in cancer treatment in our region since 1982, and we're committed to offering guidance before, during, and after treatment. Case in point, consider these 10 characteristics to look for in a cancer-care provider:

1. Latest and Most Effective Treatments

Having access to state-of-the-art treatment and technology can greatly improve the accuracy of your diagnosis, success of your treatment, and monitoring of your condition after treatment. One example is a Cyberknife, which provides unmatched control and precision in targeting certain kinds of tumors, minimizing impacts on nearby cells and improving outcomes.



2. Convenient Locations

A provider with a variety of locations can make getting to your treatments less stressful and more convenient for you.

3. Holistic Approach to Treatment

A disease can affect many aspects of your health and lifestyle: A high-quality provider will employ a multi-faceted approach to your treatment that accounts for these additional factors. Nutrition, mental health, physical therapy, stress management, medication management, one's ability to work... These and other aspects of a patient's experience should be accounted for by your care provider.



4. Experts at Treating Many Forms of Cancer

A provider that specializes in a wide range of disciplines can offer more comprehensive care to their patients. While each type of cancer is different, they also have similarities, and the ability to combine the expertise of various doctors greatly enhances the quality of care you receive.

5. A Care Team for Each Patient

An assigned and dedicated care team ensures expertise, guidance, and understanding of your care through all of its phases – from in-take, to onsite treatments, to follow-up and monitoring of your condition once treatment is concluded. Plus, an assigned care team allows you to develop comforting familiarity with doctors, nurses, therapists, and even back-office team members.



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6. Access to Clinical Trials and New Treatments

New and improved treatments are constantly being developed for cancer and other diseases. Only the most reputable, well-credentialed, and experienced providers become an approved resource for running clinical trials or conducting research. While not every patient is suitable for every new treatment, therapy, or drug – choosing a provider who has access to the latest treatments may afford you options not available elsewhere.

7. Highly Reviewed With Strong Testimonials

While referrals from family, friends, and your family practitioner remain vital when choosing an oncology or hematology care provider – the internet has also made reviews of medical professionals and practices more available than ever before. So, feel free and empowered to do your research – whether you use Google, WebMD, or even your local business pages to help inform your care-provider decision.



8. Safety Measures for Virtual Visits

Patients undergoing cancer and blood-disorder treatments can be immunosuppressed and thus especially susceptible to risks from infection. (The threat of COVID-19 has made this concern even more apparent and critical.) Accordingly, the provider should follow best-practices for office hygiene, disinfection, and use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Additionally, you may wish to ensure your provider offers virtual visitation options, for both reduction of such risks to your health and as an added measure of comfort if/when travel becomes difficult mid-treatment.

9. Online Patient Portal and Informational Resources

Test results, medication lists, at-home treatment tips, appointment reminders, billing information... These and other kinds of information should be readily available to you in a secure, HIPPA-compliant online platform. The more informed you are, the better your experience and outcome will be.



10. You Can Tell that They Care

Last but not least, your cancer or blood disorder care provider should have a genuine care for you as a patient and as a person! From doctors, to physician assistants (PAs), to office-staff – look for a provider that's 'big enough' to be equipped with the facilities and equipment you need, but "small enough" to deliver the personal care you deserve.

Find the Cancer Care You Need in Central New York

Blood disorders and cancers require specialized care, technology, and treatments. With four locations, world-class technology, and a caring, holistic approach to care – Hematology-Oncology Associates is committed to your healing journey. And we've achieved excellent results and outcomes for our patients – RIGHT HERE IN CNY – for nearly 40 years. Visit our website to learn more or contact us today to obtain assistance with scheduling your first consultation.



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