

## Ensuring Quality Cancer Care

The University of Arizona Cancer Center at St. Joseph's is committed to providing the highest level of quality care to our patients. The six aims of quality include care that is: safe, effective, patient-centered, efficient, accessible, and equitable.

Since the affiliation with The University of Arizona, our quality and performance efforts have focused on expanding and enhancing cancer services at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center. This unique affiliation uses the strengths of both organizations to transform cancer care, providing the following services to our community:

- Research-driven treatment, with access to the latest clinical trials
- Personalized care delivered by a multidisciplinary team of disease-site experts
- Collaboration with other oncologists and physicians to provide second opinions

In 2016, efforts focused on expanding treatment and prevention approaches including adding surgical expertise for breast, colorectal, and endocrine cancers, providing new immunotherapy treatments, initiating a "Fast Track" colorectal cancer screening option, offering state-of-the-art brachytherapy radiation treatment for patients with prostate, skin, and breast cancers, and stereotactic body radiation treatments for lung, liver, and head and neck cancers. Additional focus was placed on growing our disease-site expertise to offer specialized treatment plans specific to our patients' individual needs.

Quality care is driven by an integrated care management approach in which medical, clinical, and support services staff provide the patient and their family advocates with resources to promote hope, comfort, and obtain optimum quality of life.

### ASTHO Breast Cancer Learning Community and Quality Improvement Learning Collaborative Project

Breast cancer remains a significant public health challenge, as it is the most commonly diagnosed cancer

among women living in the U.S. Even with breast cancer deaths declining over the last twenty years, breast cancer remains the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women.

As a non-profit organization with a mission to serve the needs of our community, The University of Arizona Cancer Center at St. Joseph's was proud to partner with the Arizona Department of Health Services on a grant project to improve patient outcomes and reduce health disparities among minority women in Arizona. With funding provided by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the Cancer Center participated as a treatment facility to improve the quality of care for women with the greatest need.

Differences in access to care and the type of treatment received persist among medically underserved populations of women. National studies show disparities exist at each phase in the complex breast cancer continuum of care. The grant project has facilitated an opportunity to collaborate with stakeholders in the state of Arizona to discuss challenges to access, while improving outcomes related to: breast cancer screening, follow-up to abnormal results, and timely treatment.

#### NURSING ROLE AT A GLANCE

- Specialty nursing care throughout the health care continuum
- Provide evidence-based care
- Educators and resources to help with decision making in cancer care
- Coordination of comprehensive care with focus on multidisciplinary care
- Ensures needs of cancer care are met for patient, families, caregivers, and survivors
- Coordinates multidisciplinary care:
  - Communication with patients, families, caregivers, and cancer care team
  - Teams up with many cancer care specialists for smooth patient care