## Choosing a cancer program

# A patient guide

### Accreditation is a great place to start



Accreditation is an expert, thirdparty endorsement of quality.

Accredited programs demonstrate high quality, which means you'll get the right treatment at the right time, according to the best and latest research.

High quality is what gives you the best odds for survival and quality of life.

#### How quality is measured



Quality of your cancer program can and should be measured.

Quality is measured by compliance with standards. These standards measure how well a program delivers the treatments that are proven to work the best.

Quality can also be measured in terms of results for patients, such as survival rates.

### The numbers tell a story



Quality measures are shown as the percentage of time a program meets or exceeds national standards. In other words, how often the standard was met. The goal is 100% of the time.

Survival rates are shown as a percentage of people surviving 5 years after treatment.

Bigger is better: The higher the numbers, the higher the quality of care. The higher the numbers, the more people survived.



Legacy Cancer Institute is accredited as an integrated network cancer program by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC)



LEGACY LABORATORY

# 11 questions to ask

☐ How do the quality and survival numbers compare to other programs?  (See other side.)	☐ Is there help with pratical matters like transportation, travel and finding community resources or financial assistance?
☐ Do you trust your doctor? Do you feel comfortable talking with him or her? (If you don't, get a second opinion. Even if you like your doctor, always feel free to get a second opinion.)	<ul> <li>□ Is there someone available to offer emotional support, answer your questions and help you understand your diagnosis and treatment? (This is often a nurse navigator.)</li> <li>□ Is there someone concerned about your quality of life and who can help you manage symptoms and side effects? (Available</li> </ul>
☐ Does your surgeon specialize in cancer?  Does he/she see a lot of cancer patients?	
☐ Does the program coordinate your treatment and your appointments, even between different specialists? Do they	services should include nutrition, physical therapy, massage, acupuncture, exercise classes, stress management and more.)
hold multi-disciplinary conferences (tumor boards) where providers from many cancer specialties discuss complex patients? (This is important because it means you get a	☐ Does your doctor suggest proactive solutions before, during and after treatment to help reduce possible side effects, such as fertility issues?
whole team of doctors working for you.)  ☐ Is the radiation therapy equipment up-to-date? (Not all cancer patients get radiation	☐ Will you get a personalized survivorship plan to help you minimize the chances the cancer will come back? This plan:
treatment. But if you do, this is important.)  Newer equipment is more precise and gives you less unneeded radiation.	<ul><li>Summarizes your treatment</li><li>Guides your follow-up care and testing</li></ul>
☐ Does the program offer clinical trials  (research studies)? (Find out before you  start treatment – that can affect whether  you will be eligible for trials.)	Provides tips to help keep you as healthy as possible



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