

# HOME-BASED CANCER CARE

An Access Market Intelligence Report

**April 2021**

## AMI Client Services

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## Background

This year, 1.9 million new cancer cases are expected to be diagnosed in the United States. Also, this year, 608,570 Americans are expected to die of cancer—about 1,670 people per day.<sup>1</sup>

Today's cancer patient journey means a significant risk of infection on every trip to the hospital. Long waiting times for necessary test results put cancer patients in a position of increased infection in the hospital environment. This is because cancer patients are often immunosuppressed due to ongoing treatment, making them more susceptible to infection.

As home-based oncology programs develop, the role of the hospital in the treatment of patients with cancer will evolve. Home-based care will transition to serve as a more central care setting for a significant percentage of cancer patients. In fact, several studies have already shown that treating lower risk cancer patients with fevers associated with abnormally low white blood cell counts (which often occur during chemotherapy) outside the hospital is as safe and effective as treating them in the hospital, at half the cost.<sup>2</sup>

Within a year of diagnosis, three-quarters of those with advanced cancer end up in the hospital; 1 in 6 are hospitalized three or more times. And nearly everyone who needs chemotherapy spends hours a day in physician offices or outpatient clinics.

Medicare spends nearly \$30 billion on its beneficiaries with cancer in their first year of diagnosis. Depending on the diagnosis, hospitalizations account for 25 percent to 50 percent of that spending. Chemotherapy and its administration account for a good portion of the rest.<sup>3</sup>

On April 6, 2020, CMS published an interim final rule with a comment period that outlined policy revisions in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Starting on March 6, 2020, Medicare temporarily relaxed the provisions for home infusion therapy services related to the definition of “homebound” patients, billing, contracts with physicians, remote monitoring, and coverage determination. The relaxation of these rules under extraordinary circumstances has increased the spotlight on home chemotherapy delivery.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> American Cancer Society; Cancer Facts & Figures 2021.

<sup>2</sup> MedCity News; The role of home-based blood diagnostics in future cancer care; By Avishay Bransky; July 6, 2020.

<sup>3</sup> STAT; First Opinion; Cancer treatment at home is safe, effective, and closer to happening than you think; By Nathan R. Handley and Justin E. Bekelman; February 6, 2019.

<sup>4</sup> Oncology Practice Management; June 2020, Vol 10 No 6; Will Home Infusion Become an Asset or a Battleground?; Dawn Holcombe, MBA, FACMPE, ACHE; Editor-in-Chief; President, DGH Consulting, South Windsor, CT.

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the country and hospitals reduced in-person visits to a bare minimum, health systems worked to ensure that patients in their cancer centers had access to therapy in their own homes whenever possible. To ensure optimal outcomes, care teams switched some patients to oral oncology medications instead of infused therapy and expanded home infusion services—efforts that continue during the ongoing pandemic.

As with many other clinical service lines, cancer centers have reported a marked shift from in-person clinic visits to telehealth wherever possible, particularly given the immunocompromised status of many patients.<sup>5</sup>

Health systems with [specialty pharmacies](#) have a particular advantage in managing these patients because they already have comprehensive internal resources and infrastructure to build home-based care programs. Even when the pandemic ends, some of these health systems anticipate that patients will prefer home-based care and ask to continue.<sup>5</sup>

One of the nation's leading cancer organizations says home infusion of anticancer therapy is currently not a safe alternative to outpatient treatment. The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)—which has recently issued a guide to cancer care delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic and, previously, standards on the safe handling of hazardous drugs—released a position statement today that raises concerns about home infusion of anticancer therapy and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations regarding the practice.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Pharmacy Practice News; Operations & Management; September 15, 2020; COVID Jump-Starts Cancer Care at Home; By Gina Shaw.

<sup>6</sup> American Society of Clinical Oncology; News Releases; Nation's Cancer Doctors Say Home-Based Anticancer Therapy Without Oncologist Oversight, Safety Protocols, is Not a Safe Alternative to Outpatient Care; July 30, 2020.



## CTCA

1331 E Wyoming Ave  
 Philadelphia, PA 19124  
 267-603-1908  
<https://www.cancercenter.com>

## Background

Cancer Treatment Centers of America® (CTCA) is a national oncology network of hospitals and outpatient care centers offering an integrated approach that combines surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, immunotherapy and advancements in precision medicine with supportive therapies to manage side effects and enhance quality of life during treatment and into survivorship.

CTCA® publishes treatment results bi-annually including patient experience, length of life, quality of life, patient safety and quality of care. CTCA also offers qualified patients a range of clinical trials that may reveal new treatment options supported by scientific and investigational research. CTCA patient satisfaction scores consistently rank among the highest for all cancer care providers in the country.

CTCA Hospitals	CTCA Outpatient Care Centers
Atlanta	Chicago, IL
Chicago	Gilbert, AZ
Philadelphia	Gurnee, IL
Phoenix	North Phoenix, AZ
Tulsa	Scottsdale, AZ

## Oncology Clinic at Home

With Oncology Clinic at Home, CTCA patients who meet certain criteria can receive specific chemotherapy or immunotherapy infusion or injections at home. The drugs and the sophisticated equipment needed to administer them and monitor progress are delivered directly to home, in a safe, comprehensive process that is facilitated by an in-person oncology-trained nurse and overseen by a care team. Currently, Oncology Clinic at Home is available only to qualifying patients treating at CTCA® Atlanta. Oncology Clinic at Home services may soon be expanding to treat more patients in more locations.

Oncology Clinic at Home may not be available to patients with certain cancers. But the chemotherapy and immunotherapy drugs that are permitted to be delivered with Oncology Clinic at Home are approved to treat many of the most common cancers, including:

- Breast cancer
- Lung cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Head and neck cancers
- Colorectal cancer

Oncology Clinic at Home is among the growing number telehealth services provided by CTCA Anywhere®, the virtual visit technology that delivers expert cancer care to qualifying patients, where and when they need it.

### **Recent Activities**

CVS Health is working with CTCA to increase access to chemotherapy at home for eligible, fully insured patients. Together, the companies are focused on minimizing patient exposure to COVID-19 from inpatient or hospital outpatient settings during the ongoing pandemic while ensuring continuity of critical cancer care. The program leverages Coram's home infusion capabilities, coupled with training in chemotherapy administration based on Oncology Nursing Society guidelines, harnessing CTCA's expertise as an oncology care provider to give patients who may have delayed their care due to COVID-19 the flexibility to receive treatment from the safety and comfort of home.

Clinically eligible and fully insured CTCA patients with a range of cancers, including breast cancer, lung cancer, prostate cancer, colorectal cancer, head and neck cancers, and some genitourinary cancers on particular chemotherapy/immunotherapy medications, will begin their first cycles of infused chemotherapy in the hospital or outpatient care center, and, if tolerated over a number of months, can be transitioned home for continued infusions.

Once home, patients will receive in-home Coram nurse visits to administer the therapy, paired with regular telehealth visits and digital therapeutic check-ins with their CTCA clinician, care team, pharmacists and other clinical staff as needed. The program is being piloted in the Atlanta market and will expand to other geographies over the next few months to help increase access to important home-based cancer care during and beyond the pandemic.

**Huntsman at Home**

2000 Circle of Hope

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

801-587-7000

<https://healthcare.utah.edu/huntsmancancerinstitute/>

**Background**

Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) at the University of Utah is the official cancer center of Utah. The cancer campus includes a state-of-the-art cancer specialty hospital as well as two buildings dedicated to cancer research. As the only National Cancer Institute (NCI)-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in the Mountain West, HCI serves the largest geographic region in the country, drawing patients from Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana.

**Huntsman at Home**

The Huntsman at Home™ service brings the high standard and excellence of care patients get at Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) to them at home. The service allows patients to leave the hospital sooner or avoid going in at all. Providers visit patients in their own home to give these types of care: Acute Care, Supportive Care, Palliative Care and Hospice. Cambia Health Foundation helps support the Huntsman at Home™ service.

Huntsman at Home™ teams include HCI doctors and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs). They partner with Community Nursing Services for these specialties:

- Registered nurses and nursing aides
- Physical therapists
- Pharmacists
- Social workers

The concept of Huntsman at Home began in 2017 and officially began enrolling patients in 2018. The inspiration came from HCI's desire to improve care to cancer patients outside of the walls of our facilities. Most patients receive their treatment in infusion centers, so on an outpatient basis. Then, they return home. HCI intends to demonstrate value and reproducibility and is interested in seeing it rolled out to improve patient care all over the country.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Journal of Clinical Pathways; Interviews; Huntsman at Home Program Provides value Through Patient-Centered Care; June 30, 3030.



**Jefferson Health**

925 Chestnut Street, Suite 420A  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
215-955-8874  
<https://hospitals.jefferson.edu/>

**Background**

Jefferson University Hospitals and Thomas Jefferson University are partners in providing clinical and compassionate care for patients in the Philadelphia region, educating the health professionals of tomorrow in a variety of disciplines and discovering new knowledge that will define the future of clinical care.

Since 1993 the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson, one of 70 NCI-designated cancer centers in the U.S., has provided patients in Center City Philadelphia access to the latest developments in cancer research, technology and treatment. The Jefferson Infusion Center, with locations in both Center City Philadelphia and South Philadelphia, provides comprehensive care to oncology patients, with added privacy and comfort for those receiving chemotherapy, blood products and platelets.

Penn Medicine and Jefferson Health had already started pilot programs to treat cancer patients at home, and they are expanding those programs now that patients are following social distancing guidelines. The medical oncology team at Thomas Jefferson University has also been expanding its home-based chemotherapy program since the pandemic, because more patients have asked for it.<sup>8</sup>

Jefferson's Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center first began offering at-home chemotherapy care in 2017 to patients receiving high-dose Ara-C, a regimen used to treat acute myeloid leukemia. Since then, Jefferson has expanded the initiative to administer several other chemotherapy regimens.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> WHYY; Penn, Jefferson expand at-home cancer treatments during COVID-19 pandemic; By Alan Yu; April 1, 2020.

<sup>9</sup> VOICE; August 19, 2019; Chemotherapy initiative makes cancer patients feel at home; By John Kopp.



## Medically Home Group

133 Brookline Ave.

Boston, MA 02215, USA

855-340-4663

<https://www.medicallyhome.com/>

## Background

Medically Home Group is a technology-enabled services company that provides the clinical intellectual property, technology platform and coordination of acute rapid-response services that allow medical providers to safely shift advanced medical care from hospitals to patients' homes.

## Hospital-at-Home

### Virtual Hospital

- Set up Medically Home's hospital-at-home in the patient's home.
- Provide tools and systems that actively engage the patient's family.

### Medical Command Center

- Configure a physician-led/nurse-powered Medical Command Center.
- Deliver care over a period of time to better stabilize patients.
- Enable selected surgical procedures to be performed outside the hospital.

### CESIA™ Continuum Software

- Enterprise platform for orchestrating high-acuity care in patients' homes.
- Compose a clinical/operational/economic model that is designed to improve outcomes.

### Supply Chain

- Configure a unique network of clinical/non-clinical services, medications, equipment and supplies to patients' homes, enabled by CESIA.

## Recent Activities

Medically Home Group and its partner Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center (MGHCC) have begun enrolling patients in their randomized clinical trial of supportive oncology care in the home. Patients in the trial assigned to the intervention receive Medically Home's supportive oncology care services that they would otherwise not receive. The Medically Home platform includes a 24/7 clinician-led Medical Command Center; a network of rapid-response clinical and non-clinical services, medications, equipment, and supplies brought to patients' homes; and technology in the home and the Command Center for monitoring and communicating with patients with a high-acuity illness.

**M Health Fairview**

2450 Riverside Ave.

Minneapolis, MN 55454

800-824-1953

<https://mhealthfairview.org/>

**Background**

M Health Fairview is a partnership between University of Minnesota, University of Minnesota Physicians, and Fairview Health Services that combines the University's deep history of clinical innovation and training with Fairview's extensive roots in community medicine.

Through its partnership with University of Minnesota Health Cancer Care, HealthEast Cancer Care, and independent community based cancer care partners, Fairview offers complete, leading-edge care for those facing cancer. Using advanced cancer-fighting technologies, it customizes each treatment plan to the patient's unique needs, using a foundation of nationally-accepted treatment models.

**Home Infusion Program**

Fairview Home Infusion is a nonprofit provider with over 25 years of experience, offering personalized home infusion care for adults and children of all ages. It provides patient-focused home infusion therapy, with nurse visits. It also offers a range of medications from routine antibiotics to IVIG, Oremcia, Remicade, Tysabri, blood products, Vivitrol injections, and more.

Though it was first developed before the pandemic as a convenient, less costly care alternative, the Home Infusion program has quickly become a resource for cancer patients because it allows patients who meet certain standards to receive chemotherapy in the comfort of their homes, rather than traveling to a treatment center during a surging pandemic.

**Recent Activities**

Fairview Health Services and University of Minnesota Health have launched an mHealth program for cancer patients that uses ingestible sensors and remote patient monitoring technology to improve care management during chemotherapy. The two health systems are partnering with Proteus Digital Health, a digital therapeutic company that develops mHealth platforms that include sensor-embedded medications and a patch that relays data from the sensors to care providers.

**Northwestern Medicine**

211 E Ontario St. Ste 1600

Chicago, IL 60611

<https://www.nm.org/>

**Background**

Northwestern Medicine is the shared strategic vision of Northwestern Memorial HealthCare and Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine to transform the future of health care. Northwestern Medicine offers access to:

- Award-winning hospitals
- Hundreds of locations throughout the Chicagoland area
- More than 4,400 aligned physicians including faculty, residents and scientists
- Magnet<sup>®</sup>-recognized hospitals
- Treatment informed Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine research

Northwestern Medicine treats more than 10,000 new cancer cases each year. Northwestern Medicine's cancer centers provide access to state-of-the art therapies and comprehensive cancer care offering leading-edge medical, surgical and radiation oncology treatment options, as well as access to specialized research, clinical trials and diagnostic services.

Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University at Northwestern Memorial Hospital is ranked as one of the top 8 cancer programs in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*. The Lurie Cancer Center is leading efforts to translate life-changing research into better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer.

**Telehealth**

As with many other clinical service lines, cancer centers have reported a marked shift from in-person clinic visits to telehealth wherever possible, particularly given the immunocompromised status of many patients. Seventy-five percent of Northwestern Medicine care is being done via telephone or video as a substitute for a clinic visit, to decrease exposure for both the patient and the clinic staff. Telehealth primarily is employed for patients on maintenance therapy but also can be used for patients starting new therapies. For example, someone who is beginning treatment on a new oral anticancer agent can receive all of their counseling about taking the drug, what to expect, and potential side effects over the phone, with handouts and calendars sent to them by email, to reduce the number of people with whom that patient must come into contact. Even patients who are new to Northwestern have, in some cases, been managed largely via telehealth.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Pharmacy Practice News; Operations & Management; September 15, 2020; COVID Jump-Starts Cancer Care at Home; By Gina Shaw.



## **Oncology Care Home Health LLC**

1815 West 13th Street, Suite 5  
Wilmington, DE 19806  
<http://oncologycarehh.com/>

### **Background**

Oncology Care Home Health LLC (Oncology Care) has been in business since 1989. Oncology Care's leadership has extensive experience in initiating and overseeing oncology specific programs in various settings.

Oncology Care is a comprehensive, turnkey solution for community-based health care providers seeking to implement cancer specialty programs. Oncology Care's solution provides extensive training as well as ongoing education and support that help clients realize improved, measurable clinical outcomes.

### **Solutions**

Oncology Care has created a one of a kind, "recipe book" that sets the bar for the delivery of cancer care at home. Because of the company's focus on standardization of care, utilization management and staff competency, implementation of the comprehensive program leads to care delivery that is appropriate and cost-effective.

The foundation of the solution consists of a set of comprehensive tools: Training Modules, Clinical Practice and Patient Education Guidelines and Presentations, Policies, Procedures and Operational/ Marketing. These proprietary tools are available to customers via a convenient, interactive, web-based software platform. Program enhancements that will further leverage evolving technologies are underway.

The products target all the members of the home care delivery team including: nurses, physical, occupational and speech therapists, medical social workers and home health aides and managers. The solution assists our clients in adhering to the ACCC "Cancer Program Guidelines for Home Care."



## **Partners Healthcare at Home**

281 Winter Street, Suite 240  
Waltham MA, 02451  
844-744-4200  
<https://partnersathome.org/>

## **Background**

Partners HealthCare at Home is part of Mass General Brigham, which was founded by Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and includes the Spaulding Rehabilitation Network.

Home healthcare professionals from Partners HealthCare at Home bring compassionate medical management and friendly therapeutic care to patients at every visit. Highly-trained visiting nurses and caregivers support people of all ages following a hospital stay, treatment at a skilled nursing or long-term acute care facility, or after outpatient surgery.

The innovative Advance Clinical Programs include Partners Mobile Observation Unit (PMOU) and the Home Hospital programs offered in partnership with Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital.

PMOU is led by nurse practitioners (NPs). Nurse practitioners are advanced-practice registered nurses with a graduate-level education. They work independently in partnership with physicians. NPs are experts in health promotion and disease prevention.

The PMOU provides home-based urgent care for patients experiencing at-risk medical events believed to be treatable with enhanced home care. PMOU is a high-quality alternative to emergency services and hospitalization. It is available for Partners patients who would benefit from additional medical treatment and support in the safety and comfort of their home.

During a PMOU visit, a Partners HealthCare at Home (PHH) nurse practitioner is deployed to the patient’s home to conduct a clinical evaluation with diagnostic assessment and initiate a treatment plan. The home is evaluated for safety and barriers to the patient’s ability to recover at home. PMOU provides a high level of care coordination with the patient’s primary care providers, other clinicians, and family members.



## **Penn Medicine Abramson Cancer Center**

3400 Spruce Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
215-662-4000  
<https://www.pennmedicine.org/>

### **Background**

Penn Medicine's Abramson Cancer Center is a world leader in cancer research, patient care and education. The cancer center has been designated a Comprehensive Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) since 1973.

Abramson Cancer Center's clinical program currently sees 305,248 outpatient visits and more than 10,230 discharges, and provides more than 81,471 chemotherapy and 66,110 radiation treatments and has more than 9,069 participants in nearly 600 clinical trials. In addition, the Abramson Cancer Center is home to the 400+ basic, translational and clinical scientists who relentlessly work to determine the pathogenesis of cancer.

### **Cancer Care at Home**

Penn Medicine had already started pilot programs to treat cancer patients at home, and they are expanding those programs now that patients are following social distancing guidelines. Some cancer patients, as well as patients with other conditions, get their medicine by infusion. Before the current COVID-19 pandemic, about 1,850 patients were getting their infusions at home per day, and that number is up to almost 2,000. More specifically for cancer, around 100 patients at Penn already get the treatments at home, and the number is expected to increase.<sup>8</sup>

To ensure that Cancer Care at Home would gain traction and to address these concerns, a series of far-reaching procedures were established:

- The process for ordering and administration of home infusions was streamlined and all equipment delivered directly to patients' homes.
- Injections and infusions are conducted using safety and quality protocols that match what patients would experience in the hospital or clinic facility.
- Physicians and patients receive careful explanation to ensure that they understand the safety procedures in place and the credentialing criteria for the nurses who deliver infusion therapy.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> WHY?; Penn, Jefferson expand at-home cancer treatments during COVID-19 pandemic; By Alan Yu; April 1, 2020.

<sup>10</sup> Penn Medicine Physician Blog; Home Infusions and Home-Based Chemo: The Innovation of Penn Cancer Care at Home; June 15, 2020.



### **Southeastern Health Care at Home**

140 S Village Ave #10

Exton, PA 19341

610-269-9876

<https://sehomehealth.com>

### **Background**

Founded in 1987 by two registered nurses, Southeastern Health Care at Home (SE) began by delivering high-quality home care services to the residents of suburban Philadelphia. Since then, SE has grown to include 13 offices in Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Southeastern Health Care at Home (SE) provides one of the few true home-based clinical oncology programs. For patients who are appropriate for cancer care specialty services, the SE team works closely with a patient's oncologists and all other physicians to develop care plans, coordinate care, and avoid duplication of services.

The Oncology Program Coordinator, an Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN®), keeps staff up-to-date on the latest oncology updates. This ensures that SE provides the most current and advanced level of care to assist with medication education and symptom and side effect management. Some components of the Cancer Care Services include:

- Disease and medication teaching, including chemotherapy medications
- Pain and symptom management
- Wound and enterostomal therapy care
- Lymphedema – complete decongestive therapy
- Enteral nutrition management
- Respiratory care
- Cancer fatigue management
- Supportive intravenous therapy, TPN education, fluorouracil take-down
- Nutrition counseling
- Urinary catheter care





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