

NEWS RELEASE

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Mike Koroscik
(414) 778-4300
mkoroscik@oncologyalliance.com

ONCOLOGY NURSES COMMIT TO COMPASSIONATE CARE AND LIFE LONG LEARNING

MILWAUKEE, Wis. – “Being an oncology nurse is more than just administering treatment, it’s about helping the patient as a whole,” explains Lynn Czaplewski, CNS, director of nursing services at Oncology Alliance. Czaplewski has been an oncology nurse for more than 25 years and relies on those years of experience to make sure the nursing staff at Oncology Alliance is the best of the best.

According to Czaplewski, the main goals of the nursing staff is to successfully help patients in three main areas: understanding their treatment, emotional support and providing high quality oncology care. After being diagnosed with cancer, patients have a lot questions, and the nurses are there to provide answers and give reassurance. Because having cancer affects many areas of a patient’s life, the nursing staff helps the patient by providing emotional support. They are there to just listen or in some cases refer patients to the Oncology Alliance social workers or dietitians. It is not uncommon for strong relationships to develop between a patient and his or her nurse. The close relationships make swapping jokes and telling funny stories second nature. It is a great way for the nursing staff to help lighten the mood for patients undergoing treatment

“We ensure all of our nurses have the expertise and knowledge to answer difficult questions related to treatment as well as the personalities to deal with the emotional aspect of treating cancer,” says Czaplewski. “The additional resources Oncology Alliance offers its patients such as social workers and dietitians, really gives us the ability to provide well-rounded care to the patient.”

Oncology Alliance has a total of 70 RNs on its nursing staff, with 60 percent being certified in oncology nursing. After two years of experience, Oncology Alliance nurses are highly encouraged to apply for their certification. According to Czaplewski, having a specialization in oncology nursing is very important for the patient. A nurse who understands the

side effects and symptoms of certain types of treatment is able to provide advice to the patient on how best to deal with those side effects. This results in a better quality of life for the patient.

“One of the most important things to understand is that being an oncology nurse is about making a commitment to life long learning. One of the best ways we can help cancer patients is by keeping on top of current trends in oncology nursing. Understanding new types of treatment and new ways to administer it allows our nurses to truly be specialized, making the patient more comfortable and alleviating some of their fear.”

The nursing staff at Oncology Alliance knows that helping cancer patients is so much more than administering treatment. The nurses at Oncology Alliance recognize each patient as unique individuals who are facing different kinds of physical and emotional challenges as they fight this disease. “Our patients are strong, courageous individuals who amaze us every day, and if we can help increase their quality life in anyway, we have done our job.” says Czaplewski.

Oncology Alliance is the largest private practice of oncology and hematology specialists in the greater Milwaukee area. Oncology Alliance’s 19 physicians provide care to patients from 11 locations in Southeastern Wisconsin. They are supported by a multidisciplinary team of 260 employees, including oncology nurses who are specially trained in oncology and hematology care and numerous other clinical specialists. For more information about Oncology Alliance, contact Mike Koroscik at (414) 778-4300 or go to www.oncologyalliance.com.

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