From Promise to Practice
Personalizing Cancer Care
As a cornerstone of Massachusetts General Hospital, a world-leading academic medical center, we will bridge scientific discovery and clinical care to conquer cancer. We will set the standard for excellence in personalized care for patients and their families.
Welcome to the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center

Thank you for choosing the Mass General Cancer Center, where you will receive world-class treatment and compassionate care from the moment you arrive.

Our mission is to advance knowledge and rapidly translate discovery into exceptional cancer care.

With approximately 7,000 newly diagnosed patients each year, the Mass General Cancer Center treats a high volume of cancer patients including those with rare tumors of the brain, liver, pancreas, bone and gastrointestinal tract.

We are consistently ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top ten cancer centers in the country.

We offer highly precise radiation therapies, including the Francis H. Burr Proton Therapy Center, the only proton beam radiation therapy facility in New England, and one of the region’s only intra-operative electron radiation therapy (IOERT) programs.

We recognize that exceptional care begins with exceptional nurses and caregivers. Mass General was the first hospital in Massachusetts to receive Magnet nursing status from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Our multidisciplinary clinical teams provide patients with an individualized treatment plan based on a comprehensive evaluation during a patient’s first appointment.

Our expert diagnostics, including 13 subspecialties of pathologists and the most advanced imaging technology, provide valuable information on cancer subtypes and extent of disease that is used to personalize a patient’s care.

Our patients and their families have access to a vast network of support services, including disease-specific support groups, a survivorship clinic, a psychiatric oncology center, free education and wellness services, palliative care, and parent and sibling support programs.
MULTIDISCIPLINARY CARE TEAMS

Your care begins with your access nurse who is your ambassador to the Cancer Center. Your access nurse will help coordinate your initial visit and will gather all of the information needed to develop a personalized treatment plan for you.

At your first appointment, you will meet members of your care team, including:
- medical, surgical and radiation oncologists
- specialized pathologists
- radiologists
- oncology social workers
- nurse practitioners
- oncology nurses
- physical therapists
- oncology dietitians
- psychiatrists
- chaplains
- child-life specialists [for pediatric patients]
- other Mass General specialists and care providers

EXPERT DIAGNOSIS

Effective cancer treatment begins with accurate diagnosis. At Mass General we have 13 subspecialties of pathology, one for almost every organ system. These experts provide valuable information on cancer subtypes and extent of disease that is used to formulate a treatment plan. Our pathologists are trained in innovative technologies, including tumor genotyping, and provide reports within 24 hours or, in a surgical setting, often within a matter of minutes.

We also utilize advanced imaging technology to provide precise information about a tumor’s size, shape, location and proximity to vital organs. This enables quicker and more accurate diagnoses, treatment planning and tracking of the treatment’s effectiveness. Many high-tech imaging approaches used today were developed at Mass General.

ACCESS TO OTHER CLINICAL DEPARTMENTS

As the Cancer Center is an integral part of a general hospital, consults are readily available with experts in cardiology, neurology, endocrinology, orthopaedics and other disciplines. The care team helps patients navigate their options and supports them every step of the way— from living with cancer to living beyond it.
CLINICAL TRIALS

At the Mass General Cancer Center, patients have access to nearly 400 clinical trials. Our clinician-scientists develop trials to test many types of treatments, including first in-human treatments. Novel areas include the exciting new fields of targeted therapies, biological therapy, cancer vaccines, immunotherapy and gene therapy. The Mass General Cancer Center has a specialized Center for Targeted Therapeutics as well as a specialized nursing team to oversee these complex clinical trials.

“The Cancer Center is a very special place in that it fosters a truly multidisciplinary approach, which includes diagnostic specialists as well as clinical specialists in medicine, surgery and radiation oncology.”

W. Scott McDougal, MD, Chief, Urology Service

To learn more about clinical trial eligibility and participation at the Mass General Cancer Center, call 877-789-6100 or visit massgeneral.org/cancertrials
CANCER RISK ASSESSMENT AND GENETIC COUNSELING

The Center for Cancer Risk Assessment (CCRA) provides genetic testing, counseling and support for individuals and families at risk for inherited cancers. The CCRA includes five key programs – led by cancer specialists – in breast, ovarian, gastrointestinal, renal and endocrine cancers.

Genetic counselors are available on the main campus, in Danvers and at many of our other satellite locations. Call 617-724-1971 for more information.

“We have excellent clinicians and resources right at our fingertips to help guide our patients who need additional cancer screening and treatment.”

Kristen Shannon, MS, CGC, Senior Genetic Counselor and Program Manager, Center for Cancer Risk Assessment
Our Specialized Disease Centers and Programs

WE COORDINATE OUR PATIENTS’ CARE THROUGH 23 SPECIALIZED CLINICAL CENTERS AND PROGRAMS, ensuring that every patient benefits from a team of specialists who focus on their particular type of cancer.

SOLID TUMOR CANCERS AND DISORDERS
- Avon Foundation Comprehensive Breast Evaluation Center
- Gillette Center for Breast Cancer
- Center for Endocrine Tumors
- Tucker Gosnell Center for Gastrointestinal Cancers
- Claire and John Bertucci Center for Genitourinary Cancers
- Gillette Center for Gynecologic Oncology
- Center for Head and Neck Cancer
- Center for Melanoma
- Stephen E. and Catherine Pappas Center for Neuro-Oncology
- Center for Sarcoma and Connective Tissue Oncology
- Center for Thoracic Cancers

BLOOD CANCERS AND DISORDERS
- Bone Marrow Transplant Program
- Center for Hematology
- Center for Leukemia
- Center for Lymphoma
- Center for Multiple Myeloma

OTHER PROGRAMS
- Center for Cancer Risk Assessment (Cancer Genetics)
- Palliative Care Program
- Center for Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
- Center for Psychiatric Oncology and Behavioral Science
- Radiation Oncology and the Francis H. Burr Proton Therapy Center
- Survivorship Clinic
- Center for Targeted Therapeutics

A COMMITMENT TO THE UNDERSERVED
The Mass General Cancer Center is committed to helping people in underserved local communities access expert cancer care. Two of our foremost programs are:

The Avon-Mass General Breast Care Program
The Avon-Mass General Breast Care Program, funded by the Avon Foundation, seeks to overcome barriers that low-income women face in receiving quality care. The program is underway at the Mass General Chelsea HealthCare Center, the Geiger Gibson Community Health Center, and the Mattapan Community Health Center. For more information on the Avon-Mass General Breast Care Program, call 617-887-3746.

The Mass General Chelsea Cervical Health Outreach Program
The Mass General Chelsea Cervical Health Outreach Program, supported by a grant from Procter & Gamble, was created to increase rates of follow-up care for women who have abnormal pap smears, with the goal of preventing cervical cancer. For more information on the Mass General Chelsea Cervical Health Outreach Program, call 617-887-4552.

For more information on our specialized disease centers and programs, visit massgeneral.org/cancer/services.
LEADING-EDGE MEDICAL ONCOLOGY

Our medical oncologists follow their patients through every step of their cancer experience. Every patient is unique, and protocols are customized to treat each patient’s cancer. In addition to chemotherapy, there are a range of other drugs the medical oncologist can use to manage cancers, including:

- targeted therapy
- biological therapy
- gene therapy
- vaccine therapy
- immunotherapy
- hormone therapy

Mass General medical oncologists have access to sophisticated tumor genotyping resources, which provide detailed information about mutations in a patient’s cancer. This information helps ensure that patients are directed to the most appropriate standard therapy or clinical trial.

Our medical oncologists are at the leading edge in the use of targeted therapies, also called “smart drugs.” These drugs target specific mutations to stop the proliferation of cancer cells while leaving normal cells unharmed. Many cancers are responding to these new drugs.

EXPERTISE IN BLOOD-BORNE CANCERS

We also have sub-specialized expertise in blood-borne cancers, such as leukemias, myelomas and the more than 60 different sub-types of lymphoma. The Cancer Center is also accredited by the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT) for blood and bone marrow transplantation.

For more information on genotyping and smart drugs, visit massgeneral.org/smartdrugs.
“Patients often tell me how personal the care they receive here is, in the midst of a large academic hospital.”

Beverly Hudson, RN, BSN, Access Nurse, Tucker Gosnell Center for Gastrointestinal Cancers
“Our outstanding, skilled clinicians and staff are driven by dedication, compassion and innovation.”

Noah Choi, MD, Director, Thoracic Radiation Oncology
Precise Surgical Procedures and Radiation Therapies

8,600: Number of surgical cancer cases, including outpatient and inpatient, performed each year
68,000: Number of radiation therapy treatments delivered each year
11,000: Number of proton therapy treatments delivered each year

SAFER, LESS INVASIVE SURGICAL PROCEDURES
For patients whose tumors are operable, surgery is often a core component of cancer treatment. Our specialized oncology surgeons perform a high volume of advanced procedures for both common and rare cancers, and are experienced in the latest surgical procedures, many of which are done on an outpatient basis, including:

- laparoscopic approaches and other minimally invasive surgical techniques
- organ- and skin-sparing techniques for breast, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, and head and neck cancers
- continence-sparing techniques for gastrointestinal and genitourinary cancers
- fertility-sparing procedures
- prophylactic procedures for high-risk patients
- robot-assisted surgical procedures for gynecologic and prostate cancers
- radiofrequency ablation of liver, lung and kidney tumors

PRECISE RADIATION THERAPY
The goal of radiation therapy is to destroy or shrink cancer cells without damaging surrounding tissue. We offer a full spectrum of high-precision radiation therapy treatments, including some available in only a few centers in the United States. Advances in the discipline of radiation oncology have greatly improved treatment delivery and significantly reduced side effects. Our goal is to safely deliver the most precise, optimal treatment customized to the characteristics of each patient’s tumor.

Mass General is home to the Francis H. Burr Proton Therapy Center, and is one of a small number of hospitals in the U.S. to offer proton beam therapy. The Cancer Center is also one of only a few centers to perform intra-operative electron beam radiation therapy, a way to deliver radiation therapy to advanced tumors during surgery.

Other precise, effective radiation treatment approaches include:

- 3D conformal radiation
- intensity-modulated radiation therapy
- 4D gated radiation
- radiosurgery
- brachytherapy
Pioneering Research, Revolutionizing Clinical Therapies

TODAY’S RESEARCH, TOMORROW’S TREATMENTS As part of the largest hospital-based research program in the country, the Cancer Center offers many innovative technologies and treatments that are not available elsewhere. Our scientists and clinicians collaborate to understand the mechanisms of cancer and bring discoveries rapidly to clinical use.

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS THAT MAY REVOLUTIONIZE TREATMENTS

Mass General Cancer Center investigators developed a method to detect rare circulating tumor cells (CTCs), called the CTC-chip, which has been recognized as a breakthrough innovation in cancer cell detection.

The CTC-chip uses nanotechnology to capture microscopic cancer cells in a small blood sample. From the captured cells, researchers may be able to determine if a cancer has metastasized, even if as few as ten cancer cells are lurking among eight billion normal blood cells. A collaborative team of bioengineers, molecular biologists and clinicians from Mass General and other renowned cancer centers, are working together to conduct clinical trials and accelerate this research so cancer patients may soon benefit from its exciting potential.

CANCER “SMART DRUGS”: CHANGING THE GAME PLAN FOR FIGHTING CANCERS

New understanding of the pathways that enable cancers to grow and survive has given us genetic bull’s eyes at which to target new drugs. Mass General was a leader in developing three of the most important “smart drugs,” targeted to specific genetic mutations.

Mass General investigators first identified a mutation in a growth factor receptor gene called EGFR in certain patients with lung cancer. This led to the development of “smart drugs” in lung cancer and ignited research and clinical efforts in personalized therapy for patients with all forms of cancer. Our researchers have also been instrumental in the development of two other important smart drugs: the ALK inhibitor for other subtypes of lung cancer and the B-RAF inhibitor for melanoma.

The Mass General Translational Research Laboratory is at the forefront of genotyping efforts and has developed a test that can screen for more than 130 genetic mutations simultaneously. The lab uses highly specialized equipment to genetically “fingerprint” a patient’s cancer to identify any known genetic abnormalities that have been activated. Although mutations will not be identified in every cancer, and targeted therapies currently are available only for several identified mutations, our goal is to eventually genotype all of our patients’ cancers and provide customized, effective “smart drugs” to target the mutations.

For more information on research at the Cancer Center, visit massgeneral.org/cancer/research.

A circulating tumor cell from a prostate cancer patient, caught on an EpCAM antibody-coated post in the CTC-chip.
As a major teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School, Mass General is renowned worldwide for the excellence of its training programs. The bright young scientists, physicians, nurses and other clinicians who train here work side by side with the Cancer Center’s experienced clinicians and scientists. Our objective is to ensure that future generations will benefit from the same expert care that has distinguished Mass General for nearly two centuries.

Many of the graduates of these programs have gone on to assume leadership positions at Harvard Medical School-affiliated institutions as well as leading academic medical centers throughout the U.S.

For more information about oncology residency and fellowship programs, as well as the oncology nursing fellowship program, visit massgeneral.org/cancer/education.

“Our multidisciplinary environment of cutting-edge science and discovery enables the rapid translation of promising ideas from bench to bedside.”

Mehmet Toner, PhD, Director, BioMEMS Resource Center
Comprehensive Support Services for Patients and Families

WE ARE DEDICATED TO TREATING THE WHOLE PERSON. The physical, psychological and spiritual needs of patients and their families are all vital to achieving positive cancer care outcomes.

The Mass General Cancer Center offers a wide range of educational and support services for patients, families and friends.

Psychiatric Oncology
a team of psychiatrists who specialize in treating those affected by cancer

Survivorship Clinic
supporting patients as they create a new normal in their lives from the point of diagnosis, post-treatment and beyond

The Marjorie E. Korff Parenting at a Challenging Time (PACT) Program
providing individual consultation to parents with cancer, their spouses and their children

The HOPES Program
providing free wellness services (yoga, massage, acupuncture) plus education and support workshops

The Maxwell V. Blum Cancer Resource Room
providing a variety of information, resources and support, staffed by a caring team of oncology social workers
“This is a special place because at its core, there is heart. Here, my passion for music and caring for people has truly found its home.”

Lorrie Kubicek, MT-BC, Music Therapist

Patient and Family Advisory Council
patients and family caregivers who make recommendations to enhance the experience of patients and families

Disease-specific Support Groups
led by oncology social workers

Images Oncology Boutique
featuring wigs, special apparel, relaxation tapes and cosmetic services

Oncology Dietitians
who specialize in one-on-one counseling

The Network for Patients and Families
providing peer support

Palliative Care Program
helping patients and their families live as well and as fully as possible

Oncology Chaplaincy
available to persons of all faiths and to those with no religious affiliation

Illuminations
a rotating art exhibit designed to enhance our environment of care

The Howard Ulfelder, MD, Healing Garden
providing patients and their families with a rooftop place of tranquility to escape from the stresses of illness and the hospital environment

For more information on our educational and support services, visit massgeneral.org/cancer/experience.
“My care team has always done their best to keep me in good health, and after 20 years, they feel like family now.”

Steve Poulos, Patient

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Countless caregivers, scientists, volunteers and philanthropists contribute their energy, talent, passion and financial support to help the Mass General Cancer Center provide the best personalized care to patients and their families. This dedicated community is what makes the Mass General Cancer Center truly exceptional and a place of hope for patients from across the country and around the world.

Contact us at 617-726-2200 or mghccdevelopment@partners.org, or visit massgeneral.org/cancer/support to learn more about how you can help patients and families at the Mass General Cancer Center.
Partner With Us in the Fight Against Cancer

WE INVITE YOU TO PARTNER WITH US TO HELP ADVANCE THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER. Whether you contribute financial support, time, energy or compassion, you will enhance our community in a valuable and meaningful way.

Funding opportunities within the Cancer Center range from research initiatives, clinical trials and program development, to educational opportunities for nurses and physicians, to wellness and supportive care programs for patients and families. Unrestricted gifts are vitally important to the success of the Cancer Center as well—the acceleration of breakthrough research and advancement of patient care hinge on the availability of these resources.

Contact us at 617-726-2200 or mghccdevelopment@partners.org, or visit massgeneral.org/cancer/support to learn more about how you can help patients and families at the Mass General Cancer Center.

THERE ARE A VARIETY OF WAYS TO MAKE A GIFT TO THE MASS GENERAL CANCER CENTER, INCLUDING:

- outright gift of cash
- gift of securities
- family foundations
- matching gifts from your employer
- gift-in-kind art collection, auction or raffle items, etc.
- planned giving
- tribute giving a meaningful and enduring gesture to remember a loved one, honor a friend or family member or thank an outstanding caregiver
- organize a fundraising event call the Development Office and inquire about our Community Events Program to learn how
- attend the one hundred, the Cancer Center’s signature event. Each year, 100 individuals and groups are honored. To submit a nomination and learn more, visit theonehundred.org
CARE LOCATIONS

Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center

*Boston, MA*

Most outpatient cancer care occurs in clinics in the Yawkey Center for Outpatient Care, located on the main Mass General campus. Our multidisciplinary clinics, infusion center, resource room, healing garden and boutique are in the Yawkey Center. Our Bone Marrow Transplant Program and Center for Leukemia are located in the Cox Building. Radiation treatment takes place in Cox and in the Francis H. Burr Proton Therapy Center. Cancer patients requiring hospitalization are admitted to the main hospital, where their cancer care team works with inpatient clinicians to ensure seamless continuity of care. For more information, call 617-726-5130.

Mass General/North Shore Cancer Center

*Danvers, MA*

Our North Shore facility offers a full range of outpatient cancer services: advanced diagnostics, state-of-the-art medical, radiation and surgical oncology services, multidisciplinary care clinics, genetic screening and counseling, support groups, wellness services and an on-site blood lab. For more information, call 978-882-6060.

The Mass General Department of Radiation Oncology at Emerson Hospital

*Concord, MA*

Mass General radiation oncology services are offered in a community hospital setting. For more information, call 978-287-3290.

The Mass General Radiation Oncology Program at Newton-Wellesley Hospital

*Newton, MA*

Mass General radiation oncology services are offered in a community hospital setting. For more information, call 617-219-1200.

AFFILIATE HOSPITALS

The Mass General Cancer Center has an extensive network of collaborative relationships with community oncologists and cancer programs in New England, New York and Florida. This network expands our ability to coordinate care for patients in their communities, and if necessary, provides a seamless transition to the Mass General Cancer Center in Boston. For more details and to find a program close to you, call 617-724-8864.
SCHEDULING AN APPOINTMENT

For Patients:
We welcome inquiries from patients, family members and clinicians. The Cancer Center is committed to seeing new patients as promptly as possible, usually within one week.

To arrange an appointment or make a referral, please call 877-726-5130.

For Referring Physicians:
At the Cancer Center, your patients gain access to the vast resources of a premier academic medical center. We schedule prompt appointments and follow up with timely communication to referring physicians.

Clinical Access Line: 877-789-6100
E-mail: MGHcancercenter@partners.org
An integral part of one of the world’s most distinguished academic medical centers, the Mass General Cancer Center is consistently ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top ten cancer centers in the country.

The Cancer Center’s commitment to eradicating cancer is fueled by scientific investigation conducted as part of one of the largest hospital-based research programs in the nation. Through a powerful synergy between laboratory scientists and bedside physicians, the Mass General Cancer Center fosters innovation in all phases of cancer research. Physician investigators conduct nearly 400 clinical trials annually.

Known for providing customized, innovative treatments and compassionate care to both adults and children, the Cancer Center comprises 23 fully integrated, multidisciplinary clinical programs and a vast array of support and educational services.

The Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center is proud to be a founding member of a Harvard Medical School consortium designated by the National Cancer Institute as a comprehensive cancer center. This prestigious seven-member center forms the largest cancer research collaboration in the country. The promising new treatments developed through this partnership are revolutionizing the future of cancer medicine.

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