Laughlin Memorial Hospital

2017 Cancer Program Quality Improvements

- Pro-Know Contouring Accuracy is a web-based program incorporated into treatment planning in Radiation Oncology. This program aids the Dosimetrist in optimal contouring of anatomical structures, improving the quality of patient treatment planning. Medical Dosimetrist continuing education credits are also available through this program. **Implemented June 2017**
- Julia Hubbard, OCN conducted the 2016 study "Triggers of Anxiety and Identification of Methods to Consistently Provide Assistance to Reduce the Stressor". A quality improvement that resulted from this study are interventions to anxiety. These interventions for the patient include the following. 1.) Education 2.) Emotional Support- Offer referral to community resources, behavioral therapy, etc. 3.) Spiritual Counseling 4.) Wellness Activities- Yoga, Exercise, Physical Therapy. 5.) Pharmacology intervention. **Implemented February 2017**

Standard 4.7: Studies of Quality

S4.7 Study #2: Metal Artifacts in CT Imaging for Radiation Treatment Planning	
Year of study	2017: COMPLETE
Describe the criteria used to study the problem.	Criteria: Radiation Therapists maintain a log to document technique utilized to reduce metal artifact on CT Imaging in Radiation Oncology. Study is qualitative rather than quantitative. Improvement or No Improvement noted based on technique.
What were the study findings?	15 cases reviewed between June-October 2017. Findings demonstrated no improvement for technique of increasing mAs or using the MAR technique available on Siemens CT Scanner with a couple of exceptions noted. Improvement in reduction of metal artifact with MAR technique in a case of heterotopic hip and a prostate case with bi-lateral prosthetics. Both of these cases contained much larger amounts of metal versus the other cases. The Dosimetrist also used a technique of adjusting the Hounsfield units then contoured the metal artifacts contained in the CT images within the treatment planning system without improvement.
National benchmark Comparison?	**American Association of Physicists in Medicine/White Paper: MARIS-Metal Artifact Reduction in Image Space-Technical Principles/Image Comparison (Siemens Healthcare)**
What action was taken at the completion of the study?	Siemens representative contacted to coordinate presentation/demo and evaluation of the IMAR CT upgrade for the Rad Onc Dept.
When did the cancer committee review the study results?	**November 14, 2017**

Presented by: Pam Chesser, BS, RTT, CMD

Standard 4.7: Studies of Quality

S4.7 Study #1: Underutilization of ACS Quality of Life Program for Females -Look Good Feel Better (LGFB)	
Year of study	2017: COMPLETE
Study Criteria	Criteria: Based on the 2016 impact of LGFB, there is a need in 2017 for review of attendance at LGFB to determine if this is a program that needs further action steps to impact the supportive care of patients and it's psychosocial benefits. LGFB education continued to be incorporated in 2017 for LMH Nurses at scheduled in-services along with an increase in LGFB promotion by Radiation Oncology staff, the Healthcare Foundation and volunteers.
What were the study findings	An average of 2.25 attendees per session in 2016 was improved to an average of 3.7 attendees per session in 2017. * Data based on 12 meetings in 2016 and only 10 meetings to date in 2017- No meeting conducted in January 2017. Overall 37% increase in attendance for 2017.
National benchmark Comparison	American Cancer Society recommends average of 4 people per session as benchmark
What action was taken at the completion of the study?	Key LGFB volunteers implementing public awareness efforts to increase the impact of supportive care for women going through the distress of self image issues while undergoing cancer care.
When did the cancer committee review the study results?	November 14, 2017

Presented by: Pam Chesser, BS, RTT, CMD