

NEBRASKA HEALTHCARE PROFILES

A COMMUNITY
OF CARE

Nebraska Cancer Specialists eases the burden of a cancer diagnosis through efficient, compassionate, and patient-centered treatments in a community oncology setting.

Receiving a cancer diagnosis is never easy, but choosing the right type of oncology care can make the process more manageable. Instead of driving from specialist to specialist to receive care, Nebraska Cancer Specialists (NCS) provides cutting-edge cancer care for the whole person through diagnosis, treatment, and research.

As a community oncology center independently owned and operated by their physicians, NCS provides highly personalized and immediate care to patients at six locations throughout metro Omaha. Each physician is a general medical oncologist devoted to treating cancer, and most of them have special interests in different areas such as blood, breast, and prostate cancers. Their treatment goes beyond taking care of a patient's cancer.

"Our integrative services such as occupational therapy, mental health, in-house pharmacy, genetic counseling, and fitness and nutrition classes are essential components to a patient's treatment and recovery," explains NCS medical oncologist Dr. Salman Haroon. "Patients need help not only medically, but emotionally, socially, and financially. We provide all of this under one roof."

Each of NCS' integrative services is backed by a trained specialist to provide the best possible care. "Having a registered dietitian in the oncology outpatient setting allows for the identification of nutrition-related issues proactively rather than reactively," says NCS registered dietitian Karly Schneider. "Implementing nutrition interventions early achieves better outcomes with cancer treatment and gives patients an increased quality of life."

CLINICAL RESEARCH TRIALS

Along with a variety of treatment options, NCS runs more than 100 active clinical



trials at any given time. Patients that meet the requirements of a trial are able to work with their standard care team as well as a robust research team comprised of research physicians, advanced practice providers, research nurses, data coordinators, a regulatory coordinator, research pharmacy technicians, research assistants, and a research manager. As an independent practice, NCS is able to conduct these trials in a timely and efficient manner.

"It often takes anywhere from four to 12 weeks for a health system to have a clinical trial up and running, but with our efficiency and dedication, we're able to do it routinely in less than two weeks," says physician liaison Kelly Horn. "Participants not only receive state-of-the-art research treatment—they also help us determine how to treat cancer for future generations."

"We have access to the same treatments and cutting-edge research as some of the



top cancer centers across the country," she continues. "Whether a patient comes in for a clinical trial or standard treatment, the care they receive at NCS is by far the best and most personalized in the region. Patients are family to us, and we want them to feel the same way."

