

Cancer Care Assessment & Treatment Centre

Bluewater Health's Cancer Care Assessment & Treatment Centre (CCATC) is an innovative service for patients who are diagnosed with cancer, and their families. To reach the CCATC call 519-464-4485.

Having cancer and seeking treatment can be overwhelming, and the complex nature of cancer often requires that patients go to different places for tests, treatments and information. The CCATC provides patients and their families with access to the best possible cancer treatment and support available close to home – cancer care that is organized around and with patients and their families.

The goals of the centre are to:

- Help address the burden of cancer for those in Sarnia-Lambton by providing care close to home;
- Improve access to the testing needed to confirm a cancer diagnosis;
- Lessen the time and anxiety between suspicion of cancer and the confirmation of diagnosis;
- Improve the quality of cancer care services, such as wait times for surgery;
- Provide treatment that is the most up to date and based on the best available evidence; and
- Improve the patient experience by having a Patient Navigator provide support, promote continuity of care, and create necessary linkages with community agencies.

Patient and Family-Centred Care

The CCATC is focused on patient and family-centred care. This means we connect you with doctors, nurses, specialists, and other community supports to address all your needs – not just the physical ones. We believe our patients are more than just a diagnosis. The CCATC and its staff act in a supportive role for you and your family, to help you navigate your way through your cancer journey with as much knowledge and confidence as possible. We are a constant point of reference for you along the way; if at any time you are unsure about the next step or have questions about your treatment plan, we can provide you with answers and give you the tools you need to move forward feeling informed. There are many different services available to help you, and we make sure you have what you need to make knowledgeable and self-assured decisions.

Your Cancer Journey

As you know, cancer is a personal journey that can be filled with fear, anxiety and a sense of the unknown. We provide you with access to a highly-trained Patient Navigator who will support you and your family; help you understand your cancer, any tests you might undergo, and your treatment options; answer your questions; and help empower you to become active and engaged in your cancer journey.

A Diagnosis of Cancer

It can be very overwhelming to learn you have cancer, and treating cancer can be a complex process. You may have many questions as you go through the different treatment stages. Often one of the challenges is being able to understand your diagnosis and educating yourself to make sure you are making the best decisions,

along with your doctors, for your cancer treatment. It is important you are involved in developing your treatment plan. The CCATC is here to make sure you and your loved ones know exactly what is happening and why. We provide quick access to tests to diagnose your cancer, and the cancer surgery or treatment you need.

Patient Navigator

The role of the Patient Navigator is to support you through your cancer journey. They are a direct link between you, your family doctor and any cancer care services involved in your care, so everyone is receiving the same information at the same time. We do not want you to feel alone or unsure of any decisions you are making. The Patient Navigator provides you with the information and support to deal with your cancer and make sure you understand what is happening, and to explain the next step in your treatment journey. They will answer any of your questions along the way and help you feel more confident and secure in your decisions. It can be a difficult time in your life and it is comforting to know you have someone that is an advocate for you, to make sure you receive the best possible care and support when you need it most.

Coordinated Services

The CCATC has priority access to excellent diagnostic, radiology, pathology and surgery services, resulting in decreased wait times. It is important to move the process along as quickly as possible and to do this we coordinate with family doctors, surgeons, and specialists, so everyone is working together, with you and for you. We can also direct you to community services that may be of benefit to you or your family members. We want you to know you have a team of people on your side to support you in your cancer journey. By having local access for your treatment whenever possible we create a seamless system of care in collaboration with community healthcare partners, with you and your family being the main partner.

Timely Access to Care

Through an organized system of care, we create a quick timeline for our patients from the time there is a suspicion of cancer to diagnosis. Necessary tests are provided quickly for patients so a diagnosis is made in a timely manner. It can be difficult waiting to hear your test results. We have implemented a system that cuts down on wait times, helping to decrease the anxiety that comes from having to wait. At the CCATC we coordinate the necessary services for you, keep you informed of the treatments, and explain the process to you, so you feel more confident that you have a team of people working together for your care.

Care Close to Home

It is important to have a community hospital that provides a single point of access for all your necessary diagnostic and treatment services. We provide information and support to you throughout the process and when it is necessary in your journey to travel to another centre, we will help connect you with our partners in care outside of Sarnia-Lambton. We coordinate with them and make sure you feel empowered and knowledgeable about what is happening. We are always your point of reference throughout your cancer journey, the one place you can come to address any question or concerns regarding your cancer care.

Best Information and Treatment

The doctors and other healthcare providers at Bluewater Health provide care for you in a team-based approach using the best information available to diagnose and treat your cancer. The healthcare team works in collaboration with local, regional and provincial cancer experts to provide care based on the best research and treatment. As part of our commitment to delivering quality care, Bluewater Health has developed Diagnostic Assessment Programs for breast, prostate, colorectal and lung cancer. These programs provide a clear and comprehensive pathway for the diagnosis, treatment and if necessary, palliative, phases of your cancer journey. When you receive your cancer care at Bluewater Health, you can feel confident in the diagnosis, treatment and support during all phases of your journey as we use guidelines and standards to make evidence-based recommendations about our patients' care and the delivery of cancer services.