To learn more about the power of doctors working together in an environment committed to body, mind, spirit and better medicine, visit www.bellin.org or call 920-435-TEAM (8326).

Experts at The Cancer Team at Bellin Health are using technology called respiratory gating to deliver precise doses of radiation to cancerous tumors while also reducing potential damage to neighboring healthy tissue.

Oncologists at Bellin use respiratory gating to define a specific treatment area - much like a baseball pitcher’s strike zone. As a patient breathes, an identified tumor in the chest or abdomen may move in and out of this zone. For instance, a lung or liver tumor could move as much as two inches with each breath.

With respiratory gating, a dose of radiation is delivered when the tumor is in the treatment zone. When it moves out of the treatment area, the radiation stops.

“This technology enables us to treat certain tumors with tighter margins while also affecting less healthy tissue by turning the beams on only when the tumor is in the designated radiation field,” said Andy DeLaO, team leader of Oncology Services at Bellin Health.

Another tool, Rapid Arc radiation therapy, is helping The Cancer Team’s patients fight cancer. Rapid Arc delivers quicker, pain-free, increasingly precise doses of radiation to cancerous tumors while also minimizing potential damage to nearby healthy tissue.

Rapid Arc slashes that time to roughly two minutes,” said Andy DeLaO, team leader of Oncology Services at Bellin Health.

The head of the Rapid Arc machine rotates 360 degrees around a prone patient, allowing a radiation oncologist to control the machine from a remote location.

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brand respiratory gating technology and is the only health care facility in Wisconsin to use Rapid Arc technology, DeLaO said.

At 32,000-square-feet, The Cancer Team, 1580 Commanche Ave., Green Bay, eliminates the need for patients in Northeast Wisconsin and Michigan’s Upper Peninsula to travel to university hospitals or larger cities to receive first-rate cancer care in one facility.

Introducing the Cancer Coach

Ask cancer survivors about their experiences and you will often hear that the process of getting good information to make decisions is overwhelming and oftentimes difficult. This can heighten fears and lead to unnecessary anxiety.

That’s why The Cancer Team at Bellin Health will assign you a Cancer Coach to help guide you through the entire process from pre-care to aftercare. Your Cancer Coach will be your advocate and the person who will make sure you get the information you want and need. They’ll work with the team to map out your personal treatment plan and support care; they’ll help coordinate and communicate at every turn.

Services provided by The Cancer Team Coach include:

• Helping you find answers to questions and concerns and assist with medical and community resources.
• Act as a liaison between you and other team members.
• Scheduling and coordinating appointments to prevent needless waiting and decrease the number of visits you may need.
• Making sure lab work, x-rays, and scans are completed so that results are available to your medical provider prior to your visit.
• Providing education and information.
• Helping you with aftercare planning.
• Arranging second opinion services at The Cancer Team.
• Being your advocate and customizing services to meet your needs.

The Cancer Coach is a free service offered through The Cancer Team at Bellin Health. For more information call 920-435-TEAM (8326) or visit www.bellin.org.

Complementary Medicine Use in Breast Cancer Treatment

Over the past 10 years there has been a steady increase in the interest of incorporating the use of Complementary Medicine by patients with breast cancer. Complementary Medicine combines traditional treatment of breast cancer with other therapies such as nutrition and diet, herbal/natural supplements, massage, and yoga.

Between 30-70% of patients with breast cancer are using Complementary Medicine according to recent reviews. As a result of this, patient interest and the increasing awareness of health care providers for the need to understand the potential risks and benefits of integrating complementary medicine practices into breast cancer care, research on complementary medicine in breast cancer has increased as well.

World-class physicians Editha Krueger, Michael Ray, and Nathan Munson, all radiation oncologists, and Kelly Lynch and Patrick Mansky, medical oncologists, are advocates for providing advanced treatment for cancer patients across Northeast Wisconsin.

Dr. Krueger’s specialty areas include breast cancer and brain tumor treatment and radiosurgery. “We are offering world-class cancer care in a community-based setting,” she states. “That’s good news for our patients, particularly because they don’t have to travel to a university or another city to get the best care available – it’s offered right here, at our oncology center.”

Dr. Ray, who holds a Ph.D. and specializes in modern radiation oncology techniques, including intensity-modulated radiation therapy, is an advocate of utilizing complementary medicine with cancer treatment. For more information on the benefits, risks and what every woman should know when making choices to integrate Complementary Medicine into her breast cancer treatment plan, contact The Cancer Team at Bellin Health at 920-435-TEAM (8326) or visit www.bellin.org.