



The path toward evidence-based, lower-cost cancer care

Cancer drug prescriptions account for the largest portion of spending on cancer care.¹ Along with the high spend for health plans and members comes wide variations in the quality of care. Payers and clinicians alike are searching for solutions that would introduce a level of standardization to the drug-prescribing process in order to increase quality and improve costs.

Recent studies from the [JCO Oncology Practice](#) and [JAMA Network Open](#) reveal that evidence-based cancer treatment pathways not only promote best practices — they also improve cost savings.

What do oncology clinical pathway programs accomplish?

When multiple treatment options exist, oncology clinical pathway programs promote evidence-based treatment that aligns with these top priorities:²



Efficacy



Safety



Cost

The studies were coauthored by Carelon clinicians and researchers

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The studies provide evidence to support the use of clinical pathway regimens for patients with metastatic cancer types. Ultimately, pathways deliver quality cancer care and often result in lower costs.

Insights from the JAMA Network Open study

This study measured pathway adherence by exploring the uptake in payer-led, evidence-based guidelines, and the resulting outcomes.³

Using Elevance Health's claims data from July 2018 to October 2021, the study identified adult patients with nine different metastatic cancer types who were prescribed anticancer drug therapy.

\$66K↑

average total medical costs off-pathway

\$56K↓

average total medical costs on-pathway

Patients who were pathway adherent **saved \$10K on average in total medical costs.**

Read the [full study](#) for all the findings and key insights.

Insights from the JCO Oncology Practice study

This study compared cancer care toxicity and cost outcomes for patients following on- versus off-pathway regimens.⁴ All patients in the study had metastatic cancer types and were prescribed an initial anticancer drug therapy. On-pathway patients were following our clinical pathways.

\$18K

average savings on total healthcare costs for patients following on-pathway regimens

\$23K

average savings on chemotherapy costs for patients following on-pathway regimens

Patients following on-pathway regimens **saved on total healthcare and chemotherapy costs.**

Read the [full study](#) for all the findings and key insights.

Carelon's Medical Oncology Solution

What our solution does



Supports evidenced-based pathway regimens



Encourages appropriate utilization



Lowers costs

Why it matters

Cancer treatment can create physical, emotional, and financial concerns for your members. Our solution ensures the treatment regimens providers prescribe are on accepted compendia and encourage optimal, evidence-based choices.

Our Medical Oncology Solution helps optimize your members' cancer care. We do this through an evidence- and value-based approach, like our cancer treatment pathways, our provider-preferred clinical review, and our enhanced reimbursement and pathway adherence reporting. Since pathway regimens are using the latest medical evidence, the care quality is enhanced, and costs are often lowered — creating a higher-value care experience for your members.

How it works



Intake

Providers submit treatment requests online or by phone.

Review

Our automated platform goes to work, comparing the request to data, medical policy, and evidence-based pathways.

Determination

Requests that align with policies are approved, whether on- or off-pathway. Our board-certified medical oncologists and nurses make adjudications and are available to discuss individual prescribing choices. We also notify your providers of their eligibility for enhanced reimbursement when pathways are prescribed.

Set up for success

Review request data is shared with your systems to help with claims, care management, and reporting.

Contact us to learn more about what our **Medical Oncology Solution** can do for you.

- 1 Clough JD, Patel K, Riley GF, Rajkumar R, Conway PH, Bach PB. *Wide variation in payments for Medicare beneficiary oncology services suggests room for practice-level improvement.* Health Aff (Millwood) (April 2015): pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25847642/.
- 2 Daly B, Zon RT, Page RD, Edge SB, Lyman GH, Green SR, et al: *Oncology Clinical Pathways: Charting the Landscape of Pathway Providers.* JCO Oncology Practice (March 2018): ascopubs.org/doi/10.1200/JOP.17.00033.
- 3 Mullangi S, Chen X, Pham T, Liu Y, Gordon AS, Debono D, et al.: *Association of Patient, Physician, and Practice-Level Factors with Uptake of Payer-Led Oncology Clinical Pathways.* JAMA Network Open (May 2023): jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2804656.
- 4 Liu Y, Mullangi S, Debono D, Chen X, Pham T, Fisch MJ, et al.: *Association Between Oncology Clinical Pathway Utilization and Toxicity and Cost Outcomes in Patients With Metastatic Solid Tumors.* JCO Oncology Practice (June 2023): ascopubs.org/doi/abs/10.1200/JOP.23.00199.