



Cancer Center of Excellence Award

Annual Report

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Ron DeSantis
Governor

Joseph Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

2024 Cancer Center of Excellence Award Annual Report Table of Contents

Cancer Center of Excellence Award Program Overview.....	1
2024 Review of Cancer Center of Excellence Criteria	1
Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Applications (New and Re-Designation)	2
Recommendations to Strengthen the Program	3

Cancer Center of Excellence Award Program Overview

The designation of a hospital, treatment center, or other organization as a Cancer Center of Excellence (CCE) is intended to recognize organizations that demonstrate excellence in patient-centered, coordinated care for persons undergoing cancer treatment and therapy in Florida. The goals of the CCE Award Program (section 381.925, Florida Statutes) are to encourage excellence in cancer care in Florida, attract and retain the best cancer care professionals to the state, and help Florida organizations be recognized nationally as a preferred destination for quality cancer care.

Prior to each application cycle, the Florida Department of Health (Department) provides information about the award and the requirements on the Department [Florida Cancer Center of Excellence](#) website.

As part of the CCE Award Program, section 381.925, Florida Statutes, provides for the creation of a 13-member joint committee to develop a system that distinguishes cancer centers based on excellence in providing quality, comprehensive, and patient-centered care. The CCE Joint Committee (Joint Committee) comprises six members from the Biomedical Research Advisory Council (BRAC) and seven members from the Florida Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council (CCRAB).

The Joint Committee's CCE Award responsibilities include developing and regularly reviewing:

- Performance measures.
- The rating system.
- The rating standard.

Florida law requires the Joint Committee to review these components every three years to identify if revisions are needed. In addition, section 381.925, Florida Statutes, requires that providers meet certain minimum criteria including:

- Maintaining a license in good standing in this state which authorizes health care services to be provided.
- Being accredited by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons.
- Actively participating in at least one regional cancer control collaborative that is operating pursuant to the Florida Comprehensive Cancer Control Program's cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program.
- Demonstrating excellence in and dissemination of scientifically rigorous cancer research.
- Integrating training and education of biomedical researchers and health care professionals.
- Meeting enhanced cancer care coordination standards that are outlined in statute.¹

2024 Review of CCE Criteria

To ensure providers are continually enhancing their programs to reflect best practices and advances in cancer treatment and care from the perspective of quality, comprehensive, and patient-centered coordinated care, the Joint Committee considers revisions to the Cancer Center of Excellence performance measures, rating system, and rating standard. The Joint Committee met on September 13, 2024, to review the rating standard, and subsequently approved proposed revisions to the rating standards on November 5, 2024.

The Joint Committee's recommendations included the following revisions for new applicant manual:

Performance Measure 1.4 - The organization demonstrates excellence in and dissemination of scientifically rigorous cancer research. Recommendations included adding a sample table for publication information. Also added a Top Five Category table for Creative or Novel Peer-Reviewed Publications.

Performance Measure 1.5 - The organization must demonstrate biomedical researcher training to support the transition of new investigators to independent investigators. Recommendations included adding a sample table for cancer-related healthcare training information, number of trainees and created a Top Five Category table for Creative or Novel Training Topics.

Performance Measure I.9 The organization must (a) indicate the specific quality standards (e.g., the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO Certified) Model, Enhancing Oncology Model (EOM), the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO Certified) Model, Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI) certification, or other recognized quality standards) that are followed, (b) provide a summary of the quality standard model(s) in practice including the term of accreditation and how the institution is incorporating standards into care, and (c) highlight efforts to remain compliant with standards. Specific quality standard models that may be used by an institution such ASCO and QOPI were added to the measure.

Similar changes were recommended for the re-designation manual including the following:

Performance Measure I.2. Recommendation to add a sample table for publication information. Also added a Top Five Category table for Creative or Novel Peer-Reviewed Publications.

Performance Measure II.1 - added a sample table for training cancer-related healthcare training information, number of trainees and created a Top Five Category table for Creative or Novel Training Topics.

Performance Measure III.1 Recommendation to add specific quality standard models that may be used by an institution such ASCO and QOPI were added to the measure.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Applications (New and Re-Designation)

Six institutions are currently awarded the CCE designation:

- H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Inc.
- University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
- University of Florida Health Cancer Center, which includes Shands Hospital and Proton Therapy Institute, and Orlando Health's Orlando Regional Medical Center
- Mayo Clinic Florida
- Memorial Cancer Institute at Florida Atlantic University
- Cleveland Clinic Maroon Cancer Institute

No new applications were received or processed during Fiscal Year 2023-24. However, three CCE designees were required to apply for re-designation. At the Joint Committee meeting on September 13, 2024, the three institutions were recommended for re-designation. Re-designation determinations are under review for final approval.

The following institutions applied for re-designation:

- H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Inc.

Cancer Center of Excellence Award Annual Report 2024

- University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
- University of Florida Health Cancer Center, which includes Shands Hospital and Proton Therapy Institute, and Orlando Health's Orlando Regional Medical Center

Additional CCEs that fall under a different re-designation schedule are:

- Mayo Clinic, Florida
- Memorial Cancer Institute in partnership with Florida Atlantic University
- Cleveland Clinic Maroon Cancer Institute

Recommendations to Strengthen the Program

The absence of new CCE applicants could suggest that effort is needed to increase awareness among providers about the CCE designation. Increasing awareness among cancer treatment centers and other facilities regarding the benefits of a CCE designation could benefit the program by:

- Improving the quality of treatment for cancer patients throughout the state.
- Improving health outcomes for Floridians with cancer.
- Improving the quality and quantity of cancer centers throughout the state.
- Attracting and retaining the best cancer care professionals to the state.
- Helping Florida organizations be recognized nationally as a preferred destination for quality cancer care.
- Increasing the number of applicants for the designation.
- Increasing the number of overall designated facilities.

To increase awareness in the coming year, the Department will contact new organizations receiving Biomedical Research Grants and provide information regarding the merits of becoming a CCE.