



Kristin Knoll
Public Relations Specialist
989.583.7655 (office)
989.714.4473 (cell)
kknoll@chs-mi.com

PRESS RELEASE

Covenant HealthCare Breast Health Program Receives Milestone National Accreditations

The Covenant Breast Health Program recently received two distinguished honors, including the designation as an American College of Radiology (ACR) Breast Imaging Center of Excellence and the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC) three-year full accreditation award. Both organizations recognize and applaud Covenant for their commitment to providing the highest quality evaluation and management of patients with breast disease. Covenant is proud to be the only center in the Great Lakes Bay Region with both honors.

"What it means for our community and the Great Lakes Bay Region is this is a program that delivers breast cancer care on par with the highest national standards. Somebody who receives care here will receive state of the art care." says Dr. Sussan Bays, general surgeon and Medical Director for the Covenant HealthCare Breast Health Program.

Dr. Bays says that the program received many positive comments during the survey for the NAPBC. "We have many strong points. If I had to pick our most unique strength, it would be the passion and compassion of the people who take care of breast cancer patients. Every patient is treated as an individual. Our patient navigator received many positive comments [during the accreditation process]."

Ann Werle, RN, CBCN, Nurse Advocate at the Covenant Breast Health Center, says "These accreditations are a promise to our patients. Many of them come from outlying areas in the thumb and even out of state through job transfers to Dow Chemical and Hemlock Semiconductor. The ACR and NAPBC designations can assure them we are following protocol of the highest standards." Werle is a RN and the only breast navigator in the region that has the designation of "Certified Breast Care Nurse (CBCN)" through the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation. This special certification encompasses the entire spectrum of breast care nursing practice and is a validation of an individual's knowledge of breast care.

Over 20,000 patients are served annually from all over northeast lower Michigan at the Breast Health Center at Covenant HealthCare Mackinaw and Frankenmuth locations. The Center offers state-of-the-art digital mammography and diagnostic technology in the detection of breast cancer. Patients are provided the support services they need with a high level of quality care they can depend on. This concept of care and treatment of women's health focuses exclusively on the prevention, early detection and treatment of breast cancer.

Our team of physicians and staff are joined together under one roof, using the latest technology for women's breast health, including: Digital Mammography, Computer-Aided Mammography Detection, Imaging and Diagnostic testing, including Ultrasound and Minimally Invasive Biopsy Procedures, Radiation Oncology, in partnership with the Saginaw Radiation Oncology Center, Breast & Reconstructive Surgery, Chemotherapy Services, Physical and Occupational Therapy, Nurse Advocate Support & Survivorship Activities, Nutritional Counseling, Patient and Family Counseling, an Educational Resource Center.



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Details About the Accreditations

NAPBC

Covenant received a three-year full accreditation designation by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), a program administered by the American College of Surgeons. Accreditation by the NAPBC is only given to those centers that have voluntarily committed to provide the highest level of quality breast care and that undergo a rigorous evaluation process and review of their performance. During the survey process, the center must demonstrate compliance with standards established by the NAPBC for treating women who are diagnosed with the full spectrum of breast disease. The standards include proficiency in the areas of: center leadership, clinical management, research, community outreach, professional education, and quality improvement. A breast center that achieves NAPBC accreditation has demonstrated a firm commitment to offer its patients every significant advantage in their battle against breast disease.

The NAPBC is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to the improvement of the quality of care and monitoring of outcomes of patients with diseases of the breast. This mission is pursued through standard-setting, scientific validation, and patient and professional education. Its board membership includes professionals from 15 national organizations that reflect the full spectrum of breast care.

ACR Center of Excellence and Accreditations

Breast Imaging Center of Excellence

Covenant Breast Health Center has been designated a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology (ACR). By awarding facilities the status of a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence, the ACR recognizes breast imaging centers that have earned accreditation in mammography, stereotactic breast biopsy, and breast ultrasound (including ultrasound-guided breast biopsy).

Peer-review evaluations, conducted in each breast imaging modality by board-certified physicians and medical physicists who are experts in the field, have determined that this facility has achieved high practice standards in image quality, personnel qualifications, facility equipment, quality control procedures, and quality assurance programs.

The ACR is a national professional organization serving more than 34,000 diagnostic/interventional radiologists, radiation oncologists, nuclear medicine physicians, and medical physicists with programs focusing on the practice of medical imaging and radiation oncology and the delivery of comprehensive health care services.