



***Summit Healthcare Cancer Center Earns National Accreditation
from the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons***

Show Low, AZ—The Commission on Cancer (CoC), the American College of Surgeons (ACS) has granted **Three-Year Accreditation** to Summit Healthcare's Cancer Center. To earn CoC accreditation, a cancer program must meet 34 CoC quality care standards, be evaluated every three years through a survey process, and maintain levels of excellence in the delivery of comprehensive patient-centered care.

As required by the CoC, Summit Healthcare's Cancer Center takes a multidisciplinary approach to treating cancer as a complex group of diseases that requires consultation among surgeons, medical and radiation oncologists, diagnostic radiologists, pathologists, and other cancer specialists. This multidisciplinary partnership results in improved patient care.

"It is an honor to be the first rural hospital in Arizona to have its cancer center CoC accredited," said Ron McArthur, CEO of Summit Healthcare. "For our patients, this accreditation means they can expect the highest level of cancer care right here at home."

"This accreditation speaks volumes about the hard work and dedication demonstrated by the team at Summit Healthcare Cancer Center. It should also be a symbol of pride for the residents of the white mountains that their hometown cancer center has been nationally recognized", said Dr. Snehal Thakkar, Director of Summit Healthcare Cancer Center.

The CoC Accreditation Program provides the framework for Summit Healthcare's Cancer Center to improve its quality of patient care through various cancer-related programs that focus on the full spectrum of cancer care including prevention, early diagnosis, cancer staging, optimal treatment, rehabilitation, life-long follow up for recurrent disease, and end-of-life care. When patients receive care at a CoC facility, they also have access to information on clinical trials and new treatments, genetic counseling, and patient centered services including psycho-social support, a patient navigation process, and a survivorship care plan that documents the care each patient receives.

Like all CoC-accredited facilities, Summit Healthcare's Cancer Center maintains a cancer registry and contributes data to the National Cancer Data Base (NCDB), a joint program of the CoC and American

Cancer Society. This nationwide oncology outcomes database is the largest clinical disease registry in the world. Data on all types of cancer are tracked and analyzed through the NCDB and used to explore trends in cancer care. CoC-accredited cancer centers, in turn, have access to information derived from this type of data analysis, which is used to create national, regional, and state benchmark reports. These reports help CoC facilities with their quality improvement efforts.

The American Cancer Society estimates that more than 1.6 million cases of cancer will be diagnosed in 2016. CoC accredited facilities diagnose and/or treat more than 70 percent of all newly diagnosed patients with cancer. When cancer patients choose to seek care locally at a CoC-accredited cancer center, they are gaining access to comprehensive, state-of-the-art cancer care close to home. The CoC provides the public with information on the resources, services, and cancer treatment experience for each CoC-accredited cancer program through the CoC Hospital Locator at <https://www.facs.org/search/cancer-programs>.

Established in 1922 by the American College of Surgeons, the CoC is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving patient outcomes and quality of life for cancer patients through standard-setting, prevention, research, education, and the monitoring of comprehensive, quality care. Its membership includes Fellows of the American College of Surgeons. For more information, visit: www.facs.org/cancer

#