

The Hematology/Oncology program supports a full-time hematology/oncology fellow as part of the Vanderbilt University Hematology/Oncology Division. Along with the clinical faculty, the fellows help to manage patients and perform scholarly activities. The fellowship is a three-year program with 50% clinical and 50% research activities.

Outpatients are managed in the Hardy Hematology/Oncology Clinic that is located on the second floor of the Nashville General Hospital. This facility contains a waiting room, triage area, examination rooms and an infusion suite. The infusion suite is used to administer fluids, chemotherapy, blood and blood product transfusions with capabilities for all forms of chemotherapy. The clinic is open each week day with hours of operation suitable for all forms of infusion chemotherapy. Physicians are available on a daily basis to enable our patients to be seen at a convenient time. New patients can schedule appointments as needed providing physician access on a rapid basis. Maintaining the clinic is a well-trained and experienced nursing staff that educates patients and administers therapy while offering hands-on patients oriented support. The Hardy clinic at the Nashville General Hospital provides quality care in a comforting and patient friendly environment.

Distinguishing the Nashville General Hospital hematology/oncology practice is the combination of the highest standard of clinical practice along with access to innovative clinical trials. The Nashville General Hospital is a National Cancer Institute funded Community Clinical Oncology Program (CCOP). CCOP membership allows access to all types of national clinical trials that are not readily available in most clinical practices. These clinical trials represent state of the art therapy and provide access to the newest developments in cancer therapy, chemotherapy agents and cancer control and prevention trials. Access to these clinical trials enables our patients to be offered opportunities to be treated with cutting-edge therapy for all types of cancer. In addition to CCOP facilitated trials, the program has access to clinical trials from the Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center Affiliated Network and from selected studies supported by the pharmaceutical industry. All of the clinical trials offered at the Nashville General Hospital have been peer-reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board. Most of these trials are performed concomitantly at other medical centers across the country.

Deciding whether to participate in a clinical trial can be a challenging decision for some patients. To assist in this process, the program has a support staff that is able to educate patients and respond to questions about clinical trials. The physicians carefully review with each patient their disease situation and what therapy would be appropriate. While operating at a public hospital, the hematology/oncology program thus provides choices of therapy for all patients. Whether it is the standard of practice or a clinical trial, all patients at the Hardy Clinic will receive the finest care available in a supporting and comforting setting.