

Cancer Clinical Trials in the Community**Talking Points:**

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) believes that the best management for any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

- Many Montanans' with cancer are denied access to clinical trials every day at the Billings Clinic because of insurance company policies. We average 2-3 denials per month for insurance reasons.
- Clinical Trials cover all the investigational cost and provides the investigational drug to the patient without charge. The insurance companies are only being asked to cover the cost of the "standard of care" or the treatment the patient would receive if not on a trial. Limiting access to these types of clinical trials does not reduce insurance costs.
- Medicare covers the cost of "standard of care" on clinical trials. Insurance companies who do not provide coverage should have to disclose to their customers that their coverage is inferior to both Medicare and Medicaid if they are not covering clinical trials.
- "Standard of Care" is defined by national guidelines developed from clinical trials and published by groups like the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) The "Standard of Care" is the treatment a patient would receive if not enrolled on a clinical trial. Standard of Care in Cancer provides the physician with
- Billings Clinic brings the best practice to the stat of Montana, enrolling 150 patients on Clinical Trials for all types of cancer and stages of cancer each year.
- Patients want to participate to have the opportunity for a cure, further the science and to help us answer questions regarding the treatment of cancer. We will never get better at treating cancer without these clinical trials. We should not leave it to Boston, New York and California to be doing the cancer research for the rest of the country. Some of these trials need to be done in Montana and our insurance industry should be part of the solution for cancer and not part of the problem.