

# ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

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## **Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Receives American College of Surgeon's Highest Cancer Performance Rating**

*Awarded Three Year Approval with Commendation from the Commission on Cancer*

New Brunswick, NJ – Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital joins the list of the nation's best ranked cancer centers by the American College of Surgeon's Commission on Cancer after having earned the highest cancer care performance rating, "Approval with Commendation," following a stringent on-site performance evaluation conducted in early August.

*"This is a major distinction, one that we are proud of, but it's also something we're not surprised by...we know, and more importantly, our patients understand that we provide the absolute best cancer care. The hallmarks of that care are new medicines and technologies as well as utilizing the latest cancer research in the treatment of our patients. As the key partner of the state's only National Cancer Institute (NCI) comprehensive cancer center, we have already demonstrated our ability to achieve a higher standard of care. This approval means we continue to uphold those principles of excellence in the treatment of our cancer patients each and every day,"* said Stephen K. Jones, interim President and CEO of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital is the flagship hospital of The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ). CINJ is the state's only NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center and one of only 39 such centers nationwide.

*"Cancer is a frightening truth when a family or individual is confronted with it. We do not invite the intense scrutiny of the Commission so we can pat ourselves on the back and tell each other how well we're doing – we do it so our patients will take some comfort in knowing that when they are facing cancer, we are right there with them to make sure they receive the absolute latest advances in medicine and research, and the highest level in patient safety and quality cancer care,"* said Rachel Behrendt, MSN, RN, OCN Oncology Nurse Educator at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.

A 'Three-Year Approval with Commendation' represents the top rating issued by the Commission and is awarded to programs that comply with all standards and receive a

commendation rating for one or more of the eligible standards. The Commission's evaluation of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital was rigorous and the hospital's first as a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated Comprehensive Cancer Program. It differs from previous Commission evaluations and from those of other hospitals because the criteria for NCI Comprehensive Care facilities are much tougher.

*"The recognition by the commission acknowledges the outstanding work of our oncology nurses and physicians. Through their dedication and hard work our patients receive top notch care at one of the state's leading hospitals. The partnership between Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and The Cancer Institute of New Jersey ensures that all New Jerseyans receive the best possible care close to home,"* stated Molly Gabel, M.D., chair of the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Cancer Committee and the Deputy Director for Extramural Affairs at CINJ.

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital's 123-bed cancer center provides comprehensive and individualized care in the treatment of cancer including chemotherapy, medical oncology, hematology-oncology, surgical oncology and bone marrow transplantation. The hospital also provides positron emission tomography (PET) scanning, intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT), brachytherapy, stereotactic radiosurgery, extracranial radiosurgery, and precise high-dose radiation treatment, as well as CT (computered tomography) simulation, a body scanning technology providing high-resolution images to map tumor location. All rooms are private with hotel-style amenities, room service dining and sleeping accommodations for a family member. In 2005, nearly 1200 patients with cancer were admitted for care at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

#### **What is the Commission on Cancer?**

According to its website (<http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/cocar.html>), the Commission on Cancer is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving survival and quality of life for cancer patients through standard-setting, prevention, research, education, and the monitoring of comprehensive quality care. Established by the American College of Surgeons (ACoS) in 1922, the multi-disciplinary Commission on Cancer (CoC) sets standards for quality multidisciplinary cancer care delivered primarily in hospital settings; surveys hospitals to assess compliance with those standards; collects standardized and quality data from approved hospitals to measure treatment patterns and outcomes; and uses the data to evaluate hospital provider performance and develop effective educational interventions to improve cancer care outcomes at the national and local level. Multidisciplinary Commission membership is comprised of more than 100 individuals who are either surgeons representing the ACoS or representatives from the 39 national, professional organizations affiliated with the CoC.

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*Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital is a 600-bed academic medical center and innovative leader in advancing state-of-the-art care in medicine. Its Centers of Excellence include cardiovascular care from minimally invasive heart surgery to transplantation, cancer care and women's and children's care including the Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital. Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital is also a Level 1 Trauma Center and serves as a national resource in its ground-breaking approaches to emergency preparedness. The hospital has earned significant national recognition for clinical quality and patient safety. The American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer has rated Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital among the nation's best comprehensive cancer centers. Consumers Digest magazine ranked the hospital fifth in the nation in patient safety initiatives. Harvard University researchers, in a study commissioned by The Commonwealth Fund, identified Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital as one of the top 10 hospitals in the nation for clinical quality. Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital is also a three-time recipient of the prestigious Magnet Award for Nursing Excellence.*

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