



Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council

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TITLE: PHC4 RELEASES NEW DATA TO HELP CANCER SURGERY PATIENTS

HARRISBURG—**June 24, 2020**—The Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4) released today new data to help cancer patients and their families make decisions about cancer surgical care in Pennsylvania.

The new results show the number of cancer-related surgeries performed at Pennsylvania hospitals in Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019). Hospital surgical volume is reported for 11 types of cancers including bladder, brain, breast, colon, esophageal, liver, lung, pancreatic, prostate, rectal, and stomach cancer. Readers can sort the data based on county, hospital, and number of cases for each cancer surgery type.

“Reporting volume for these cancer surgeries is important because there is strong evidence in the scientific literature that links hospital surgical volume and patient outcomes,” said Joe Martin, PHC4’s Executive Director. “It’s another tool for cancer patients and their families to use when considering treatment options.”

The analysis shows that many hospitals performed only one or two surgeries for some of these cancers. For cancers of the liver and stomach, a third or more of the hospitals performed only one or two surgeries in FY 2019 as highlighted in the table below.

Cancer Surgeries Performed in FY 2019				
Cancer	Total Number of Surgeries Performed in PA	Number of Reported* Hospitals that Performed the Surgery	Reported* Hospitals that Performed Only One or Two of these Surgeries	
			Number of Hospitals	Percent of Hospitals
Bladder	1,153	103	30	29.1%
Brain	1,277	36	2	5.6%
Breast	12,092	128	8	6.3%
Colon	3,604	132	13	9.8%
Esophagus	343	27	4	14.8%
Liver	549	33	11	33.3%
Lung	2,374	70	10	14.3%
Pancreas	505	27	8	29.6%
Prostate	3,035	80	16	20.0%
Rectum	966	82	27	32.9%
Stomach	309	59	32	54.2%

*Does not include children's hospitals or hospitals that closed or merged.

Martin points out that, “Hospitals could have a low number of cases for one type of cancer surgery and a high number of cases for another, so it’s important to look at the full picture when considering options.” The report notes, in particular, that while the volume of cases generally reflects the experience a hospital has with performing each type of surgery, patients should use volume data in consultation with their physicians when making decisions about quality care since many factors may contribute to the overall outcome.

The brief is available on PHC4’s website at www.phc4.org. You can also link to it through social media on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

PHC4 is an independent state agency charged with collecting, analyzing and reporting information that can be used to improve the quality and restrain the cost of health care in Pennsylvania.