The Westchester Medical Center (WMC/MHRH) Academic Comprehensive Cancer Program is committed to high-quality patient care as evidenced by its maintenance of standards required for accreditation by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (ACoS CoC), receiving the “Outstanding Achievement Award” for exceeding standards in several competency areas related to quality patient care. Each year, our Cancer Registry submits information to the National Cancer Database, and other agencies, for every patient who is seen by our specialists for the treatment, and follow-up of a cancer diagnosis.

**Figure 1. WMC Registry Data vs. National Cancer Database Hospital Benchmarks**

Surgery is not the first course of treatment for patients with clinical regional spread of lung cancer to lymph nodes (cN2, M0)

*Figure 1* demonstrates that in the calendar year 2015, patients with a diagnosis of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer, who were evaluated and treated in the WMC/MHRH’s Thoracic Oncology Program (blue bar), received the highest quality care when compared to similar Academic Programs across the country (red bar), as well as other CoC-approved facilities in New York State (green bar), for measures related to appropriate initial treatment for lung cancer that has spread to nearby lymph nodes. In these instances, surgery is best avoided as the first step in treatment.

**Figure 2. WMC Registry Data vs. National Cancer Database Hospital Benchmarks**

LCT Systemic chemotherapy is administered within 4 months to day pre-operatively or day of surgery to 6 months postoperatively, or it is recommended for surgically resected cases with pathologic lymph-node positive (pN1) and (pN2) NSCLC.
**Figure 2** demonstrates that in calendar year 2015, patients with a diagnosis of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer at WMC/MHRH’s Thoracic Oncology Program received systemic chemotherapy within 4 months to day pre-operatively or day of surgery to 6 months postoperatively for surgically resected cases with pathologically positive lymph nodes (pN1 and pN2).

Patients treated at WMC/MHRH experienced appropriate multispecialty review of their cancer treatment options, and did not undergo surgery as an initial treatment at rates equal to, or greater than (8% to 9%), those experienced by patients treated at other facilities mentioned during calendar year 2015. In addition, all NSCLC pN1 or pN2 patients received chemotherapy in a timely fashion as recommended by ACoS, CoC, and NQF (National Quality Forum) national quality of care measures at rates greater than (9% to 12%) those compared to other ACoS CoC Academic Cancer programs and other ACoS CoC approved programs in New York State.

**The National Quality Forum**

The [National Quality Forum (NQF)](https://www.nqf.org) is a not-for-profit membership organization that develops and implements national strategies for health care quality measurement and reporting. Membership in the NQF has broad public and private participation, including but not limited to health care consumers, purchasers (both private and public), employers, health care professionals, health plans, and organizations involved in health care research or quality improvement. The members of the NQF work to promote common approaches to measuring health care quality and promoting quality improvement.