



Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council

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TITLE: PHC4 RELEASES NEW DATA TO HELP CANCER SURGERY PATIENTS

HARRISBURG—May 23, 2019—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 2018 (July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018). 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 bladder, esophagus, liver and stomach, more than a third of the hospitals performed only one or two surgeries in FY 2018 as highlighted in the table below.

Cancer Surgeries Performed in FY 2018				
Cancer	Total Number of Surgeries Performed in PA	Number of PA Hospitals that Performed the Surgery	Hospitals that Performed Only One or Two of these Surgeries	
			Number of Hospitals	Percent of Hospitals
Bladder	1,073	109	43	39.4%
Brain	1,173	44	9	20.5%
Breast	11,549	137	10	7.3%
Colon	3,632	142	13	9.2%
Esophagus	359	42	18	42.9%
Liver	539	35	15	42.9%
Lung	2,410	77	9	11.7%
Pancreas	520	30	8	26.7%
Prostate	3,281	91	26	28.6%
Rectum	901	89	27	30.3%
Stomach	319	57	25	43.9%

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 report 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.