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TITLE: PHC4 RELEASES NEW DATA TO HELP CANCER SURGERY PATIENTS

HARRISBURG—May 26, 2022—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 2021 (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021). 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.

“There is strong evidence in the scientific literature showing a relationship between patient outcomes and hospital surgical volume,” said Barry Buckingham, PHC4’s Executive Director. “Reporting volume for these cancer surgeries is important for this reason and serves as 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 2021 as highlighted in the table below.

Cancer Surgeries Performed in FY 2021				
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	1,132	92	24	26.1%
Brain	1,384	41	3	7.3%
Breast	12,116	119	7	5.9%
Colon	3,436	121	10	8.3%
Esophagus	313	30	6	20.0%
Liver	560	30	11	36.7%
Lung	2,225	61	7	11.5%
Pancreas	499	27	8	29.6%
Prostate	2,248	76	18	23.7%
Rectum	860	82	26	31.7%
Stomach	315	57	28	49.1%

*Does not include children's hospitals or hospitals that newly opened, closed, or merged (as of the report preparation date).

Buckingham 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.