

Contact:

Kate Whitman
Edelman for Northwest Cancer Specialists
Phone (206) 268-2222
Kate.whitman@edelman.com

**NORTHWEST CANCER SPECIALISTS AWARDED GRANT TO DEVELOP
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR ORAL CHEMOTHERAPY**

PORTLAND, Ore., May 26, 2010 – Northwest Cancer Specialists announced today it has been awarded a grant from CareOregon, a not-for-profit organization committed to improving and protecting the health of low income and vulnerable Oregonians. The grant will fund a study designed to help patients make more informed decisions about the pros and cons of oral chemotherapy. The goal is to develop a program for the administration of oral chemotherapy that ensures patients are making the best decision based on their unique needs and circumstances. Northwest Cancer Specialists will develop and test the program at its Rose Quarter Cancer site and will replicate the program at other Northwest Cancer Specialists sites throughout the Portland and Vancouver area.

“In the past five years, the market for oral chemotherapy has grown considerably and by 2020, we expect up to 100 new oral agents on the market to treat cancer. This means patients are increasingly confronted with the question of whether oral therapy is right for them. Still, most patients don’t have a good way to assess their options and, to add to the complexity, there are no established best practices for oral therapy management,” explained Margaret McGuinness, Pharmacy Manager at Northwest Cancer Specialists. “Our study will shed more light on the many factors influencing patient decisions about oral therapy including treatment costs, side effects and impact on lifestyle. While oral treatments may eliminate the need for IV treatments, they require patients to take medications according to often complex schedules. Our goal is to develop an oral therapy management program that can be replicated at Northwest Cancer Specialists and in other treatment settings.”

The oral chemotherapy market is fueled by the belief that most people prefer oral vs. intravenous therapies. But until now, there has been no research that considers patient preferences in the context of such issues as access to treatments, out of pocket costs, prescription adherence and patient management of adverse effects. Oral therapies are typically more expensive, are paid for through prescription vs. medical insurance and can have side effects that are difficult for patients to manage on their own. In addition, the treatment regimens can be complicated and difficult for some patients to remember, causing adherence issues. Northwest Cancer Specialists will monitor these important aspects of oral therapy with the goal of developing a standard set of tools for physicians and nurses to help their patients make more informed decisions.

About Northwest Cancer Specialists

Northwest Cancer Specialists is a regional oncology and hematology practice with a dedicated team of over 40 medical oncologists, hematologists, gynecological oncologists and radiation oncologists seeing patients at seven locations in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area. For more information, please visit, www.nwcancer.com.

Northwest Cancer Specialists is united in healing with US Oncology, supporting the nation’s foremost cancer treatment and research network to accelerate the availability and use of evidence-based medicine and shared best practices. For more information, visit the company’s Website, www.usoncology.com.

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