



SEMINAR SERIES



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"Health Economics of Cancer Care in the U.S. Military Health System"

Monday, April 22, 2019
12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Q & A to follow with lunch provided

Harkness Auditorium

HSC - Clinical Sciences Building, CSC 250
2250 Alcazar Street, 2nd Floor, Los Angeles, CA

Abstract:

The costs for cancer care continue to rise in the U.S., owing to both incidence trends and development of new and targeted therapies. The costs for cancer care may vary within and between health systems due to differences in organizational structures and policies. The U.S. Military Health System (MHS) provides medical care to over 9 million active duty service members, retirees, and their family members each year. The MHS provides direct care to beneficiaries through military treatment facilities (MTFs) and purchased care through a network of civilian facilities. The costs to treat cancer in the MHS exceed \$1B per year, only a fraction of the \$125B in total U.S. healthcare spending on cancer each year. This presentation will detail research on whether costs to the MHS for cancer treatment are different between benefit types and care sources for two cancer sites common in the U.S. and MHS populations: colon and female breast cancer. The potential differences will be described in terms of each treatment type (e.g. surgery, chemotherapy) and for each tumor stage. Then, a study to determine cost-efficiency of breast cancer care in the MHS will be presented. The seminar will conclude with a description of on-going collaborative efforts between researchers at the Murtha Cancer Center Research Program, Uniformed Services University and faculty at USC School of Medicine to investigate how care source (direct or purchased) and other factors contribute to variation in cancer treatment costs in the MHS.