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TITLE: PHC4 RELEASES NEW DATA TO HELP CANCER SURGERY PATIENTS

HARRISBURG—August 26, 2021—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 2020 (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020). 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.

“The scientific literature has shown clearly the importance of the relationship between hospital surgical volumes and patient outcomes,” said Joe Martin, PHC4’s Executive Director. “This report serves as another tool in the toolbox 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, a third or more of the hospitals performed only one or two surgeries in FY 2020 as highlighted in the table below.

Cancer Surgeries Performed in FY 2020				
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	1,052	100	36	36.0%
Brain	1,280	41	5	12.2%
Breast	11,861	123	7	5.7%
Colon	3,372	128	10	7.8%
Esophagus	335	35	12	34.3%
Liver	528	38	19	50.0%
Lung	2,298	67	11	16.4%
Pancreas	519	29	8	27.6%
Prostate	2,800	72	9	12.5%
Rectum	903	87	24	27.6%
Stomach	295	51	27	52.9%

*Does not include children's hospitals or hospitals that closed or merged.

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 brief 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.