

NEWS RELEASE

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COMMUNITY ONCOLOGY CLINIC UTILIZES NEW LABORATORY INSTRUMENT TO MONITOR CANCER REOCCURRENCE

MILWAUKEE, Wis. – Oncology Alliance has recently purchased a new instrument that will allow its medical laboratory staff to perform tests that monitor whether or not a patient is showing signs of cancer reoccurrence. Oncology Alliance is a regional health care practice that provides cancer care. The new laboratory instrument called ADVIA Centaur® CP Immunoassay System will expand Oncology Alliance’s laboratory test menu by 15 new tests.

Additional tests being added to Oncology Alliance’s in-house test menu include tumor markers, iron studies and thyroid testing. Tumor markers are used to monitor the treatment of patients with solid tumor cancers including breast, ovarian and prostate. With the new instrument, these tests will no longer need to be sent out and will provide patients and their physicians with results much sooner. Tumor markers are repeated at visits during and after treatment is completed, allowing physicians to determine effectiveness of treatment and if there are signs of disease progression.

One of the many jobs of the laboratory at Oncology Alliance is to continually evaluate new equipment and technology to remain current on advancements that make sense for cancer patients. Oncology Alliance provides on-site laboratory services for its patients that allow laboratory professionals to perform and report patient’s lab results while the patient is at the clinic. In most cases the results are ready before the patient leaves the office. Providing on-site laboratory services is unique for a community clinic and is one of the ways Oncology Alliance continues to provide its patients with complete cancer care close to home.

“Having the ability to perform lab work on location really expedites the results, making the process much faster and more convenient for the patient,” said Karon May, Senior Director of Support Services at Oncology Alliance. “Many decisions regarding our patient’s treatments are based on blood counts. The faster the physicians can receive results, the quicker a patient can start treatment.”

Oncology Alliance will be recognizing the 33 staff members of its Laboratory Department during National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week, April 19-25. Using state-of-the-art technology and instrumentation, the lab staff at Oncology Alliance deliver critical patient information that assists in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer and other hematologic diseases.

Oncology Alliance is the largest private practice of oncology and hematology specialists in the greater Milwaukee area. Oncology Alliance’s 19 physicians provide care to patients from 11 locations in Southeastern Wisconsin. They are supported by a multidisciplinary team of more than 260 employees, including oncology nurses who are specially trained in oncology and hematology care and numerous other clinical specialists. For more information about Oncology Alliance, contact Mike Koroscik at (414) 778-4300 or go to www.oncologyalliance.com.

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