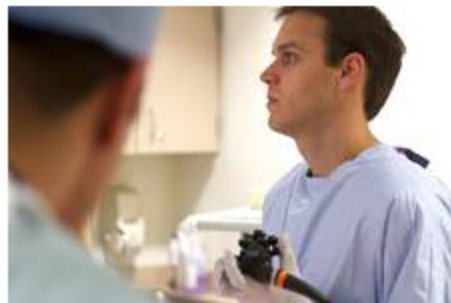




GI ONCOLOGY CENTER

PATIENT EDUCATION



Insurance Tips:

- Read your plan every year. Coverages can change even though the name stays the same
- Call and ask questions; keep the name of the person you spoke to and the date.
- When you are eligible for Medicare always try to pick up the Medicare B,[pays outpt bills]. There is a monthly premium taken out from your Social Security check approx 99.00 to 109.00 per month.
- Medicare D, the prescription coverage pick a plan that meets your needs. Review the medication list to see if your medications are on the list, if not move on. Not all medications have a generic form.
- If you are 65 or older and live in NYS; apply for EPIC,[Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage]

Case Study # 1

67yo female in need of Sandostatin LAR injections monthly. She has a Medicare advantage plan that will charge her 20% of the cost of the medication if she comes into a Roswell Park Clinic for the injection. The cost to her after the first visit to chemo infusion was \$860.00 for 1 month.

- Patient was asked to apply for EPIC. She did and she was approved.
- a rx was obtained and filled by the pharmacy after her EPIC was approved . Her copay was \$20.00.
- I made a referral to a homecare agency in her area to give the injection at home.
- The total cost to the pt for both the injection and the homecare visit = \$40.00 per month

Case # 2

53yo Patient in need of Sandostatin LAR. Pt has a Medicare advantage plan with Medicare D and is in the donuthole, therefore she has no coverage for the medication.

The cost of the medication is \$2000.00

1. Apply for patient assistance thru one of the programs available. Many of these plans will cover the cost in full as they were able to for this patient.
2. ***Caution: at certain times of the year funds maybe limited for these programs therefore the pt would have to come into clinic for the monthly injection.

Esophageal cancers begin in the cells of inner lining, or mucosa, of the esophagus. Two main cancer types occur in the esophagus:

Adenocarcinoma is the most common esophageal cancer type in the United States. It begins in the gland cells that produce esophageal mucus. This typically occurs when stomach acids repeatedly back up into the esophagus, as in acid reflux. The acidic juices irritate and damage the gland cells, leading them to grow out of control. Adenocarcinoma usually occurs in the lower part of the esophagus, closest to the stomach.

Squamous cell carcinoma occurs in the flat squamous cells in the upper part of the esophagus. Although this cancer type is less common in the U.S., it is the most common esophagus cancer in the rest of the world.

Symptoms

Early esophageal cancer may not cause symptoms. But, as the cancer grows, some people experience:

- Choking on food
- Painful swallowing
- Pain in the chest or back
- Weight loss
- Heartburn
- Hoarseness or cough that persists beyond two weeks

Many people with esophageal cancer experience no symptoms before diagnosis, and may remain symptom-free for years.



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