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News Release

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Nurse Navigator Earns Certification

Linda Lyon, RN, CBPN-IC, nurse navigator for The Breast Center at Rome Memorial Hospital, has received the designation of Certified Breast Cancer Navigator for Imaging and Cancer through the completion of the National Consortium of Breast Centers' (NCBC) Breast Patient Navigator Certification Program.



“This certification validates the nurse patient navigator’s knowledge and skills above and beyond the basic knowledge needed to navigate patients through the continuum of care,” said Sharon Carson, R.T. (R)(M), director of medical imaging. “More importantly, it demonstrates Linda’s commitment to providing a superior level of care for our patients who face a possible breast cancer diagnosis.”

As one of only 28 certified breast cancer navigators in New York State, and the only one in Oneida County, Lyon is a patient advocate, helping to advise and ease the anxiety of patients who are facing a possible breast cancer diagnosis.

Lyon’s certification demonstrates her expertise in navigating a patient through the breast imaging and breast cancer stages with assistance from the hospital’s integrated team members. “During the imaging stage, I work to ensure that the patient receives timely exam results, is scheduled for the appropriate follow-up care or scheduled for their next routine exam,” she said. “If testing does reveal a suspicious breast abnormality, I meet with the patient, explain every option, and we begin to walk through the cancer care process together.”

As a certified breast cancer patient navigator, Lyon is dedicated to saving lives by ensuring all patients who have a suspicious finding receive a resolution through timely diagnosis and treatment. “I work to eliminate any barriers to care which might exist,” she explained. “By assisting with follow-up appointments and giving each individual patient my undivided attention, I am able to ensure that their needs are being met and their questions are being answered.”

Lyon achieved her certification by meeting specific eligibility requirements including being a licensed medical professional who is already performing patient navigation and by passing a pair of comprehensive examinations in San Antonio, TX.

Moving a patient through the continuum of care is a complex and highly individualized process. As a registered nurse, Lyon understands the inner workings of the healthcare system and has a

unique ability to explain every step of the process a patient may be facing as they begin their journey to wellness. “My nursing background is vital because it allows me to use my experience to communicate what the patient can expect when they undergo a procedure or test. I can assist their physician in the education process to ensure that our patients understand their results and treatment plan.”

The hospital participates in the National Quality Measures for Breast Centers program as evidence of its commitment to provide each patient with the highest quality of care.

For more information, Lyon can be reached at 338-7389.