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### **MEMORIAL'S NORTH STAR LODGE RECEIVES ACCREDITATION**

**(Yakima)** The Commission on Cancer (CoC) of the American College of Surgeons has granted *Three Year Accreditation with Commendation* to North Star Lodge Cancer Care Center.

North Star Lodge demonstrated compliance with CoC standards to include: committee leadership, data management, clinical services, research, community outreach and quality improvement.

There are currently more than 1,500 CoC-accredited cancer programs in the US and Puerto Rico. Forty nine percent of those receive accreditation with commendation.

"We are pleased to be among the elite cancer centers in the nation who receive commendation from the College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer," states Vicky Jones, MD, Memorial's Cancer Committee Chairperson. "I think it speaks to our team's diligent efforts to not only meet, but often exceed the highest of standards in our field of medicine."

When patients receive care at an accredited facility, they have access to:

- Quality care close to home
- Comprehensive care including a range of state-of-the-art services and equipment
- A multispecialty, team approach to coordinate the best treatment options
- Access to cancer related information, education and support
- A cancer registry that collects data on type and stage of cancers and treatment results and offers lifelong patient follow-up care
- Ongoing monitoring and improvement of care

Accreditation is granted to facilities that have voluntarily committed to providing the highest level of quality cancer care. A rigorous evaluation process and review of their performance is mandatory. To maintain accreditation, facilities with CoC-accredited cancer programs must undergo an on-site review every three years.

North Star Lodge is the distinctive centerpiece of Memorial's comprehensive cancer care services. It offers medical and radiation oncology services as well as clinical trials.

[www.northstarlodge.org](http://www.northstarlodge.org)