

Our Oncology/Hematology Team

Our Oncology/Hematology team strives to combine state-of-the-art medical treatment with an integrative approach that addresses the whole person. We are dedicated to providing exceptional and personalized cancer care close to home.

Our team includes the staff of our Oncology/Hematology Clinic and Infusion Center and is augmented by the services of our Pharmacy, Laboratory and Imaging departments. We also have nutrition specialists and administrative staff, and care is coordinated as needed with the Surgical Services Department at HRRMC. We are happy to offer the skills of three massage therapists who work closely with our patients as part of our team.

Our team is here to help you coordinate appointments and services with other physicians who may participate in your care. For example, specialists from the Front Range may provide instructions for us to follow here, or we can assist you with appointments at their location to obtain services such as radiation oncology, which is not available at HRRMC.





HRRMC Oncology/Hematology Clinic Providers



Agnes Charles, MD, is board-certified in internal medicine and trained in oncology and hematology. She earned her medical degree from the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Dr. Charles brings more than 25 years of experience in providing care to patients with diverse oncological and hematological conditions, and is known for her compassionate care.

Prior to her arrival in Salida, Dr. Charles provided care as an Oncologist at Southwest Oncology Centers in Yuma, AZ.



Wendy Oatis, MD, JD, is board certified in internal medicine, medical oncology and hematology. Dr. Oatis graduated with honors from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine. She completed her residency in internal medicine at the University of Maryland, and her fellowship in medical oncology and hematology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. She was previously in clinical practice at Memorial Hospital-University of Colorado Health in Colorado Springs.

As a result of her own family experience with cancer, Dr. Oatis strongly believes that the relationship between a physician and her patient must be built on understanding and respect. Having a clear sense of each patient's unique needs and values is critical to providing appropriate cancer care. She, along with her HRRMC colleagues, believes that a successful team approach to patient care depends upon educating and involving the patient in all aspects of his or her treatment.

In addition to her medical training, Dr. Oatis has a Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University Law Center, and practiced law for 11 years prior to attending medical school.



Carol “CJ” Johnson, PA-C, graduated with honors from the University of Kentucky and has been practicing as a physician assistant since 1989. She has specialized in working with oncology patients since 2001.

CJ is a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants, the Association of Physician Assistants in Oncology and the Colorado Academy of Physician Assistants.

CJ relocated to Salida from Maine in 2015 and provides personalized hematology and oncology care to residents in our area.



Maddie Syzek, FNP-C, was born in Denver, CO but grew up in Cincinnati, OH with her parents and two older brothers. In 2015, she moved back to Colorado and started her nursing career. Maddie worked at Children's Hospital Colorado as an RN in the NICU. After a few years in the NICU, she decided to go back to school and earned her Master's degree to become a Family Nurse Practitioner. She worked in adult Cardiology at HRRMC for three years as a nurse practitioner before transitioning to her current role as a nurse practitioner in Oncology.

She is married to her wonderful husband Justin. She and Justin have three kids, aged 11, six, and three months. As a family, they love to hike, watch movies, and play with their four dogs. In her free time, Maddie loves to be with her family exploring beautiful Colorado, cuddling her puppies, doing yoga, hanging out with friends, and enjoying the river and sunshine. She loves all things buffalo, and if you see her out and about around town, she is most likely wearing some sort of patchwork clothing.

Clinic Management



Jirka Myers, MSN, RN, OCN is the manager of HRRMC’s Infusion Center, Oncology/Hematology Clinic and Diagnostic Nursing. She has been working at HRRMC since 2011. Jirka initially received her nursing degree in the Czech Republic in 1997 and has since obtained her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing in the U.S. Jirka previously worked in the Medical/Surgical Department at HRRMC and was a clinical instructor for the Adams State University nursing program. She obtained her Oncology Certified Nurse credential in 2019. Jirka’s passion for

oncology and hospice started many years ago when she worked with oncologist Adam Myers, M.D. She loves developing close relationships not only with the patient, but also with the family.



Jonathan Trenary, PharmD is the Director of Pharmacy Services and Oncology & Outpatient Infusion at HRRMC. He received his PharmD from Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN. The pharmacy and oncology departments he oversees work together to ensure that patients have the medications, treatments and knowledge they need. Jonathan created and opened the HRRMC outpatient pharmacy prior to accepting the directorship. It is his passion to provide patients with personalized and exceptional care. Jonathan moved to Salida with his wife and two young boys to live, serve and be a part of this amazing community.



[Oncology Clinic Nursing Staff](#)



Gloria Houseton, BSN, RN, WCC has been a nurse since 1994 working primarily in the acute care setting in Medical/Surgical Nursing. She joined the Hematology/Oncology team in Nov. 2019. Gloria assists our providers with managing patient appointments, procedures and referrals. She coordinates care with the Infusion Department, other providers and facilities to meet the unique needs of our patients.

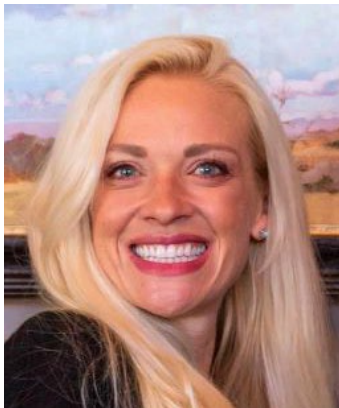


Corinne Gerberich BSN, RN began her career as a nurse's aid in high school and college until becoming a registered nurse in 1982. Since then, she has enjoyed various positions including Obstetrical, Psychiatric, Home Health and Hospice nursing. Working with an awesome team of nurses and health care providers, combines well with her professional, family and personal experience in dealing with cancer.

Corinne says, "It is an honor to assist patients and families as they navigate through their own, unique, health care journey."



Sommer Williams BSN, RN started her nursing education here in Salida, graduating with her ADN in 2007 before going on to earn a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree. Sommer is thrilled to be back in Salida, and loves working with the Oncology/Hematology team assisting in the office.



Danita DePetro, BSN, RN has been a nurse since 2009. She has worked in several different departments throughout HRRMC over the years. She comes from a medical family, her mom and sister also work at HRRMC. Danita has one daughter, two sons, a dog, two cats, chickens and ducks. She enjoys camping, hiking, playing board games and most of all spending as much time as she can with family and all of her animals.

**The Oncology nursing staff can be reached at 719-530-2302
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Infusion Clinic Nursing Staff

Our Infusion Center nurses provide chemotherapy as well as many other kinds of intravenous fluids or medications in a comfortable outpatient setting. All are either accredited or working toward accreditation in the administration of chemotherapy and have experience and certifications in critical care. They bring exceptional skills and knowledge to the care of our patients. Our nurses administer your medications and provide in-depth teaching to help you completely understand the specifics of your treatment. Our nurses strive to provide the highest level of care in the most compassionate manner.



Chris Ortiz, RN, BS, OCN has more than 30 years of nursing experience, with many in critical care and over ten years in oncology. She is not only certified in chemotherapy and biotherapy administration, but is also an Oncology Certified Nurse. She particularly enjoys learning about and teaching new facets of oncology.



Shelly Carlos, RN, OCN, has been working at HRRMC since 1996 and in the Infusion Department since 2013. She has many years of experience in emergency nursing and numerous accreditations in critical care. She obtained her Oncology Certified Nurse credential in May 2017. Shelly feels fortunate to have such meaningful work and values the close connections with her patients and their families.



Rikki Kaess, BSN, RN has been a nurse at HRRMC for over 20 years, with experience in obstetrics/neonatal, same-day surgery, post-anesthesia care and internal medicine. She brings excellent IV skills to the Infusion Center. Rikki enjoys the continuity of care and the close relationships that she develops with our patients.



Patsy Juarez, RN, has been a nurse since 2005, and has been at HRRMC since 2008. She has worked in various settings throughout the hospital including ICU, Same-Day Surgery, Post-Anesthesia Care Unit, and the Medical/Surgical Department before coming to work in our Infusion Clinic. She continues to work as a house supervisor when needed. She enjoys the personalized care and connections with our patients and looks forward to learning new skills. Patsy is certified in chemotherapy and biotherapy administration.



Gail Ryan, RN, joined HRRMC in 2011 and has over 12 years of experience in cardiac and critical care nursing. Gail enjoys learning about the changes and advances in science that enable her to put her skills to use when caring for her patients. She especially likes the benefit of being able to spend ample time with patients and their families so she may develop relationships with them. Gail is certified in chemotherapy and biotherapy administration.



Heather Bourget, BSN, RN joined HRRMC in 2015. Heather was a pediatric nurse at Children's Hospital in Denver for five years prior to returning to her hometown of Salida. Heather is certified in chemotherapy and biotherapy administration. She is compassionate and values getting to know her patients and their families.



Joni Baker, MSN, RN and her family moved to Salida CO from Southeastern Ohio in 2013. They enjoy the outdoors year around, skiing, hiking, biking and camping. Their oldest daughter is a student at Virginia Tech studying criminology and psychology. They also have three children at home. Rian loves to play volleyball, Jack and Dean spend a lot of time mountain biking and skiing. As a nurse at HRRMC, Joni works as a nursing supervisor, and provides patient care in the Family Birthing Center, Inpatient Adults and Pediatrics, staff education, Same Day Surgery and Outpatient Infusion. The aspect of nursing she enjoys the most is teaching, both peers and patients.



Marty Pack, RN grew up in Michigan and is the youngest of 6. He enjoyed being outside from an early age which has never changed. After coming to Colorado at age 12 on a family trip, the seed was planted and at the age of 18 he moved out West to the mountains and has been traipsing their slopes ever since. Marty came to Salida in 2008 with his wife Beth and their newborn son. Marty obtained his education at the University of Arizona and has been a nurse for over 20 years. His experience includes working in the emergency department, the pediatric and surgical units and the infusion department. Just recently, he become certified as an ostomy specialist.

Massage Therapists



Justin Critelli, LMT graduated from the Hudson Valley School of Massage Therapy in New York in 2011. Justin is certified in a variety of massage techniques such as prenatal, reflexology, myofascial release and sports massage – his greatest expertise in the Mattes Method of Active Isolated Stretching and Strengthening. He has worked professionally across the country and the globe from California to Ecuador. Justin looks forward to working at HRRMC and expanding Massage Therapy access into the culture of modern hospitals.



Rachael Guenther, LMT, CMLDT, is a new resident of Chaffee County, and considers herself a half New Yorker, half Coloradan. Rachael chose massage therapy as a second career and in 2012, she graduated from the Swedish Institute of Massage Therapy in NYC, where she was a tutor and top in her class. She specializes in orthopedic massage, is certified in manual lymphatic drainage, and provides breast tissue work, focusing on pre- and post-operative procedures.

Over her career, she has volunteered at numerous sporting events providing post event massage, but her passion is offering gentle touch with end-of-life care through hospice centers.

Rachael has had multiple reconstructive surgeries over the last few years, and wholeheartedly believes in the importance and benefits of massage therapy during the recovery stages. She is empathetic and compassionate about the care for others and enjoys being of service along their healing process.

Physical Therapists



Alice Smyth, PT, CLT, graduated with a Master of Science in Physical Therapy from the University of New Mexico. She studied lymph drainage therapy through the Chilly Institute and received her certification in bandaging and lymphedema therapy through the Academy of Lymphatic Studies. Alice has experience in outpatient orthopedics, chronic pain and dry needling.

She is certified as an oncology rehabilitation specialist by the Physiological Oncology Rehabilitation Institute (PORi). Her knowledge and understanding of various cancer treatments including surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, and hormone therapies enable her to treat the systems affected through a variety of therapies.



Lisa Bauer, PT, DPT, graduated from the University of Colorado with a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree and is also certified as an Emergency Medical Technician. She spent 15 years as an outdoor educator helping people achieve goals and learn about themselves through wilderness travel. As a physical therapist, Lisa has worked with patients across a variety of settings: from the intensive care unit to emergency department to outpatient clinic. She has a passion for helping patients remain active and maintain their best quality of life during and after cancer treatments.

She is pursuing certification in oncology rehabilitation by the Physiological Oncology Rehabilitation Institute (PORi), as well as continuing education through Survivorship Solutions. Lisa is also a cancer survivor and has experienced the benefits of oncology rehabilitation in her own life.

Dietary Support



| Sally Ayotte, Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist and Chef Educator received her BS in Food and Nutrition from Framingham State College in Massachusetts and is a Johnson & Wales trained Chef. It is Sally's mission to use her unique skill set as a dietitian and chef to teach others how easy it can be to live a healthy lifestyle. Over the past 35 years, she has worked in food and nutrition in all stages of life. From prenatal nutrition through eldercare, she continues to work with clients to make healthy food choices for a variety of conditions and lifestyles. She offers nutritional counseling with the goal of facilitating long term healthy lifestyle changes. Sally enjoys traveling and enjoying the cuisines of the places she visits.

Picture taken by Gloria in front of her house

