

CONTACT INFORMATION

THE CENTER FOR INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE

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By making this information available, the University of Colorado Hospital and The Center for Integrative Medicine do not promise or guarantee the effectiveness of this integrative therapy. For any serious conditions, we recommend that you contact your physician before trying any new therapy.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO HOSPITAL THE CENTER FOR INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE COMPLEMENTARY CANCER SUPPORT FUNDING PROGRAM



University of
Colorado Hospital

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO HEALTH

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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Thanks to generous donations and fund raising efforts, TCFIM is often able to offer some of our CAM therapies at no cost to patients undergoing active cancer treatment. Patients who qualify may receive up to 6 visits of acupuncture, massage therapy, or a combination; visits must be used within a 6 month period. Funding is limited, is not guaranteed, and is not always available. Please contact TCFIM directly with questions regarding availability at 720-848-1090.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR FUNDING

Patients must either be in active treatment (such as radiation, surgery, chemotherapy, and immunotherapy). Patients may be included who are past active treatment but who are getting medication to help with prevention (ex: tamoxifen) and are having significant side effects from this medication.

OUR CARE PHILOSOPHY

There are no CAM therapies definitively known to affect the outcome of cancer. CAM therapies are not a substitute for conventional care as they are not curative if used alone or in place of conventional treatment. The best use of CAM therapies is to help patients manage side effects of treatment or symptoms from the cancer, thus helping patients tolerate the conventional treatments and have an improved quality of life.

HOW TO APPLY

Complete an application and have your oncology provider address any concerns or precautions and sign off, indicating they feel that our therapies will be safe for you at your current stage of treatment. Sign & date the application and acknowledgement of program policies and return it to the Center for Integrative Medicine for review. You will be contacted after your application has been reviewed and your eligibility assessed to let you know if you have qualified for an award. If you qualify you will be given 6 gift certificates for the services you indicated on your application.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW

Stay away from harmful therapies. We do not offer these therapies, but some of the listed harmful therapies are offered in the community and patients with cancer are prime targets for unscrupulous practitioners. **DO NOT USE:**

- Colon hydrotherapy (colon cleansing with large amounts of water, soap, coffee delivered by repeated enemas). The risk is that the colon can perforate, the blood electrolytes can be altered causes seizures, coma, or death, and infection is a risk, too.
- IV therapies not given by or approved by a conventional provider (oncologist, primary care provider, etc)
- Certain herbs and supplements - discuss with one of the Cancer Center dieticians, who are experts about supplements used for cancer and understand possible risks and drug interactions
- Certain restrictive diets - again, consultation with one of the Cancer Center dieticians is readily available

Please also consider taking advantage of some free or low cost therapies that are not part of the fund program but can be very helpful:

PSYCHOLOGY/MIND-BODY THERAPY: Our psychologists are usually covered by your insurance, and patients find that working with one of our psychologists can be extremely helpful in coping with a new diagnosis, feeling more connected/working on identity issues, the grief process, dealing with well-meaning family and friends who have become burdensome, asking for help, etc. They also work with patients on meditation & relaxation techniques which are helpful with many side effects including pain, sleep disturbance, and anxiety.

CANCER EXERCISE REHABILITATION: Erin Wicken, Physical Therapist at University Family Medicine at Stapleton, has specialized training in using the power of exercise to help patients with cancer prevent and treat fatigue, improve immune system function, reduce anemia during treatment, speed recovery back to normal function, and help return range of motion/normal function after surgery. Call 720-848-1000 for more info.

DIET & NUTRITION: Improvements to diet may help with survival from cancer and help prevent recurrence, and may help with many side effects of treatment, such as nausea, diarrhea, constipation, weight gain or weight loss. Registered dieticians who specialize in cancer nutrition from prevention to diagnosis, through treatment and on to prevention of recurrence, are available at no cost to patients of the University of Colorado Comprehensive Cancer Center. Call 720-848-0300 for more info. They are also experts in the use of herbs/supplements for cancer.

Here is a list of common side effects that cancer patients experience and the recommended therapies to address them. If this is not enough information or you do not feel comfortable making the decision, you are welcome to make an appointment with TCFIM's physician or physician assistant, who specialize in helping people decide which CAM therapies are best for their individual case. The visits with the physician or PA are typically covered by insurance and subject to a specialist's office visit copay.

NAUSEA WITH CHEMOTHERAPY OR PREVENTION OF SIDE EFFECTS OF CHEMOTHERAPY: ACUPUNCTURE MIND/BODY

DRY MOUTH: ACUPUNCTURE

LOSS OF APPETITE: ACUPUNCTURE

DIARRHEA/CONSTIPATION: ACUPUNCTURE

PAIN: ACUPUNCTURE MIND/BODY MASSAGE THERAPY

STRESS MANAGEMENT: MIND/BODY MASSAGE THERAPY

LYMPHADEMA: MASSAGE THERAPY

DEPRESSION/ANXIETY/INSOMNIA: MIND/BODY MASSAGE THERAPY ACUPUNCTURE

HOT FLASHES: ACUPUNCTURE MIND/BODY