



"The diagnosis was the same, but the care was different. I am now five-years cancer free and I am thankful to be here and thankful to Williamson Medical Center for being here."

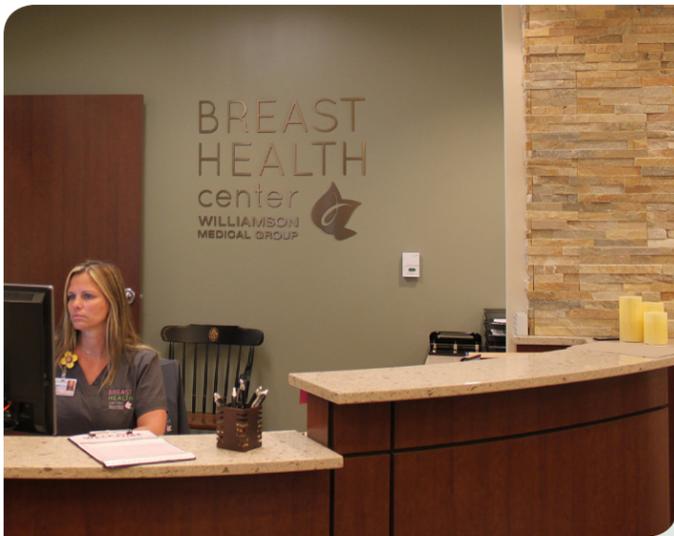
Felecia Prowell, *Breast Cancer Survivor*

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One recurring question asked by the women considering treatment at Williamson's Breast Health Center is: *"Can I have the same procedures performed at the same level of expertise here that I could at some of the bigger facilities in Nashville?"*

The answer is yes.

Everything we do here is the same as what is being done at other medical centers nationwide – only with a more personal touch. We are accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), which is a subsidiary of the American College of Surgeons, and our Imaging Center was designated a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology. Those are huge accolades. We also use state-of-the-art technology including 3D imaging/tomosynthesis to ensure our patients get the most accurate and detailed information possible. We utilize a Breast Health Navigator, who ensures that patients and their families not only understand what is going on, but are armed with accurate information and personalized care throughout the entire treatment process and beyond.



"There are so many things a patient needs to know when diagnosed with breast cancer. They can call me at any time and ask questions. Our goal is to empower patients with knowledge concerning their diagnosis, treatment options and what to expect during their cancer journey."

Cary Ralph, RN, CN-BN, Breast Health Navigator

What is Breast Health Navigation?

The heart of navigation is personalized care. Navigation offers personalized education, assistance and support to patients, families, and caregivers to help overcome healthcare system barriers, such as fragmented care or personal barriers including cultural, financial, educational, spiritual and emotional. Navigators also facilitate timely access to quality health and emotional care from prediagnosis through all phases of the cancer experience.

Every patient is provided individualized one-on-one education and support across the continuum of care, beginning with community outreach to raise awareness and perform cancer screening, through the diagnosis and treatment process, and on to short- and long-term survivorship or end of life. Although a primary focus of navigation is the identification and elimination of barriers that delay early diagnosis and completion of treatment in keeping with National Comprehensive Cancer Network guidelines and other national accreditation requirements, it also incorporates education and psychosocial support for the patient and their caregivers.

What makes the Breast Health Center different from all other breast centers in downtown Nashville?

Our dedication to personalized, timely and informative care is what sets us apart along with our continued commitment to quality through our NAPBC accreditation. We want our patients and community to know they can count on us with their most precious gift – their life.

Timeliness of care not only impacts better outcomes for patients it helps facilitate a reduction in patient anxiety. There is nothing worse than having to wait a week to find out if you have cancer. Furthermore, waiting weeks to learn what your treatment plan may or may not entail. Providing education throughout the cancer care continuum in a timely manner to the patient and caregivers is key. Coordination of needed appointments and tests among the cancer care team members during the patient journey creates a less stressful experience.

WMC's multidisciplinary team is experienced and has a great sense of community. ALL NEWLY DIAGNOSED patients with breast cancer are presented at our bi-weekly conference. All physician members (radiologists, pathologists, surgeons, plastic surgeons, radiation and medical oncologists) on our team have a passion to ensure a patient-centered approach not only focusing on the disease itself but also the psychosocial aspects, quality of life, empowerment and survivorship of each patient. They discuss national guidelines, genetics testing, patient barriers and available clinical trials as appropriate creating a treatment plan that is best practice while integrating pastoral care, occupational/physical therapy, social workers and community resources as part of the team for each patient.

At our Breast Health Center, patients with abnormal test results have the opportunity to be seen within 24 hours, biopsied within 24 hours and have results within 48 hours. We feel like no woman should have to wait two weeks for details about a potentially serious health condition like they would at other area breast health centers.