



# Ohio Hematology Oncology Society Annual Report 2024

## OHOS Mission

The mission of the Society is to promote excellence in the care of patients with cancer and hematologic disorders.

To achieve this, the Society aims to:

- Foster high standards in the care of patients with cancer and hematologic conditions.
- Advocate for patients and providers, and protect access to quality cancer care.
- Advance the fields of Hematology and Oncology by providing education for healthcare professionals to improve patient outcomes.
- Protect the rights of patients with hematologic and oncologic diseases.
- Serve as a representative and liaison to governmental agencies and managed care organizations.
- Share information on legislative and regulatory developments impacting hematologists and oncologists.

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## Legislative & Advocacy Initiatives

### State Policy Advocacy

- OHOS actively collaborates with our lobbyist and allied organizations to advocate for key legislative bills, engaging directly with bill sponsors to ensure the interests of our members are represented. We are currently working on the post-election and 2025 advocacy initiatives/bills.

Below are a few:

- Biomarker Testing
- Prior Authorization - Gold Card
- Off-label Drug Coverage
- Whitebagging
- Co-pay Accumulator
- Medication Switching
- PBM Reform

## Capitol Hill Days

- OHOS - ONS - Successful collaboration on advocacy initiatives.
- OHOS Capitol Hill Day meetings were held to discuss key legislative priorities, including efforts to move the stalled Gold Card Bill forward. Along with our lobbyist, met with multiple legislators as well as ACS & OSMA.

## National Policy Advocacy

- Regularly attend ASCO, ASH, COA and NOSN meetings to stay abreast and participate in national level policy and advocacy.
  - OHOS takes an active role in ASCO's State Affiliate Program, attending semi-annual in-person meetings and collaborating with other state societies to align on national oncology policy and share state-level perspectives. This program enhances OHOS's advocacy by connecting us with ASCO's resources and national priorities, strengthening our impact on legislative and regulatory efforts.
  - Engaged in regular calls and national meetings with ASCO, COA, ASH, and NOSN, where we shared state-level insights and contributed to nationwide advocacy initiatives. Collaborated on a broad range of legislative priorities to strengthen our collective voice.
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## Membership

- **Expansion of Membership**
    - Membership includes over 220 Oncology and Hematology Providers
    - Over 500 new staff/committee members have joined our database within the past year.
    - Affiliate memberships have expanded, now including members from:
      - Ohio State University (OSU)
      - Cleveland Clinic
      - Eleanor N. Dana Cancer Center
      - Kettering Health
      - ProMedica
      - OhioHealth
  - **Corporate Sponsorship Engagement & Growth**
    - Many thanks to our 37 corporate members
    - Benefits expanded as we regularly meet with partners to remain on target for meeting needs and expanding partnership value.
    - Created the Corporate Partner Education Compendium – Listing of educational offerings by company so our members are aware and have easier access.
    - Created a Company-Specific Reimbursement Managers Directory: Facilitating closer collaboration between OHOS, our corporate sponsors and our members to resolve issues and barriers to quality cancer care.
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## Certification Program for Billers

- A certification program for oncology coding and billing is currently in development and is planned to launch in 2025.
  - Includes educational webinars and an exam and will be offered as a free resource for OHOS members & their staff.
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## Committees & Projects

- OHOS has developed Committees for each area of practice and have begun and/or completed many projects within each committee. Additionally, projects continue to grow, with members actively contributing to society initiatives and educating peers.
  - Notable committees and projects include:
    - **NPP Committee:**
      - Working to develop a variety of educational programs.
      - OHOS partnering with APPOS to provide two CE Conferences for APPs - Cincinnati in the Spring, and Cleveland in the Fall.
      - Working on an APP On-Boarding Educational Series which will be free to our members.
    - **Pharmacy Legislative Committee:**
      - Create a resource for Vial optimization - to prevent take backs by payers.
      - Educating members on laws related to importing drugs from other countries.
      - Working to support the Community Pharmacy Protection Act (HB505).
      - Provide oversight on Board of Pharmacy Legislative activities.
    - **Nursing Committee:**
      - Working to facilitate the sharing of best practices through an in-service project.
      - Completed a OHOS guide on educational programs offered by corporate sponsors, updated regularly and available on the OHOS website.
    - **Administrator Committee:**
      - Collaborating on various projects aimed at improving practice operations and facilitating the sharing of best practices.
      - Overseeing some of the other committee projects.
      - Continue to work with OHOS on expansion of the OHOS website.
    - **Financial Navigator Committee:**
      - Contributes regular insights and tips in the monthly newsletter to help fellow financial navigators better support their patients.
      - Optimal use of free drug programs and ranking them for member use.
      - Works with OHOS to identify resources and better educate the entire membership on “best practice” financial navigation.
    - **Payer/Reimbursement Committee:**
      - Established a monthly reimbursement virtual roundtable to identify state wide reimbursement barriers and work as a team to address them.
      - Completed a list of Field Reimbursement Managers (FRMs) to assist with reimbursement barriers, now located on the OHOS website.
      - Contributes regular updates on payer-related topics in the monthly newsletter.

## Website & Communications

### Listserv Engagement

- Increased participation and interaction through the OHOS Listserv, with more members networking and sharing valuable insights.

### Newsletter Expansion and Growth

- Expanded newsletter content with consistent updates on corporate sponsor updates, OHOS meetings, payer updates, and national oncology news.
- Includes regular member contributions to the monthly newsletter, providing articles and updates on relevant issues.
- Reaching over 900 readers, including OHOS members and corporate sponsors.
- Supporting efforts to protect cancer patient access to care through timely and relevant information.

### Website Upgrades

- The OHOS website has been redesigned and expanded with a new platform.
    - Working to enhance user experience for a variety of healthcare roles, including providers, nurses, pharmacy staff, and those in revenue cycle management.
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## Programs and Events

### Annual Spring Roundtable Meetings

- In-person roundtable meetings were held in six key cities in the spring, with increased attendance from members and corporate sponsors.
- Discussions were focused on addressing significant barriers faced by participating organizations.

### Monthly Reimbursement Roundtable Sessions

- Ongoing statewide Zoom sessions focused on identifying and resolving reimbursement barriers as a state-wide team.

### Monthly Educational Virtual Program – “Spotlight Series”

- Launched a monthly virtual educational program with diverse topics, some within offerings by our OHOS Corporate Sponsors, 2024 Program Titles Included:
  - Provider Outreach with CGS.
  - Digital medicine and patient monitoring with ASCO.
  - The Future of Cancer Screening with Grail.
  - Nurse Compassion Fatigue in partnership with Daiichi Sankyo.
  - CAR T-Cell Therapy - The Patient Journey with Bristol Myers Squibb.
  - Annexus Health AssistPoint Overview - Financial Navigation System.
    - A 10% discount offered for OHOS member clinics and hospitals.
  - Overview of Uber Health and the Launch of Uber Caregiver.
  - Principal Illness Navigation & Social Determinants of Health.

## **OHOS Annual Meeting 2024**

- Held at Quest Conference Center to accommodate the larger audience - 145 Registrants
  - Focus: Prepare members for 2025 changes, protect patient access, and understand how to utilize the existing laws that protect access to cancer care.
  - Key Highlights
    - 2025 Medicare Updates: New regulations and billing codes impacting oncology.
    - State Advocacy: Overview of Ohio laws and OHOS's 2025 legislative efforts to protect patients.
    - Insurance and Complaints: Guidance from the Ohio Department of Insurance and Department of Labor on complaint processes.
    - Navigating Escalations in Medicare, Medicare Advantage, and Federal Programs .
    - Payer Relations: Strategies for successful contract negotiations.
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