



Marian Medical Center

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NEWS RELEASE

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Central Coast Medical Oncology in Collaboration with Marian Cancer Care Services Receive the Only Available Lung Cancer Vaccine in the Tri-County Area

The only new, lung cancer vaccine to be clinically tested within the counties of Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo is exclusively in Santa Maria

SANTA MARIA, CA – (February 22, 2010) – Central Coast Medical Oncology in collaboration with Marian Medical Center’s Cancer Care Services is the only selected facility between the counties of Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo to recently receive a new lung cancer vaccine for clinical trials.

Central Coast Medical Oncology and Marian’s Cancer Care Services are now participating in a clinical trial to test the effectiveness of Lucanix, a new lung cancer vaccine. Lucanix is a cell-based therapeutic vaccine, for patients with non-small cell lung cancer. The Lucanix Phase III clinical trials are sponsored by the University of California, Los Angeles and the National Cancer Institute. The Lucanix Lung Cancer Vaccine has been in the process of development for more than 22 years and is in the third phase of testing. Marian and Central Coast Medical Oncology are now participating in the Phase III Lucanix clinical trials, which is the final step before the vaccine can gain FDA approval.

Marian Medical Center established a clinical affiliation with the Jonsson Cancer Center at UCLA in 1997. Since that time, patients on the Central Coast have benefited from participating in national clinical trials. UCLA currently has three full-time clinical oncology specialists working collaboratively with the oncology team in Santa Maria. The Phase III Lucanix Vaccine Therapy is another example of excellence in cancer care for patients on the Central Coast.

“Our community has been gifted with this unique opportunity to work closely with UCLA and be a part of the most recent medical oncology advances,” Katherine Guthrie, Regional Oncology Director, CHW Central Coast Service Areas, said. “The goal of participating in clinical trials is to successfully prolong the lives and enable healthier living for cancer patients, but ultimately the purpose is to develop a cure for cancer.”

The clinical trials are open to those between the ages of 18 and 75. Participants must also meet the advanced stage disease presentation and treatment status requirement to be eligible. Those participating in the clinical trial will have a 66 percent probability of receiving the study drug and 33 percent of participants will receive the placebo.

To participate in Phase III of the Lucanix Vaccine Clinical Trials in Santa Maria, please call Alison Fernandez, RN, MPH, OCN, Clinical Research Coordinator, at **(805) 739-3724**. This clinical trial will be supervised by Principal Investigator Brian DiCarlo, M.D., Central Coast Medical Oncology.

In 2008, Marian Cancer Care Services received the Comprehensive Cancer Program accreditation with eight commendations by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer. This three-year accreditation is based on the Center's exceptional performance in the areas of clinical services, research, cancer data management, cancer committee leadership, community outreach and quality improvement.

Marian's Cancer Care team is dedicated to cancer prevention, education, treatment and support services. Bringing together a program of clinical expertise, and the latest technology, Marian's cancer program is supported by staff physicians, nurse navigators, social workers, dieticians, volunteers and community members.

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About Marian Medical Center

Located in Santa Maria, California, Marian Medical Center is a not-for-profit hospital founded by the Sisters of Saint Francis in 1940. Our team of 1,300 employees and more than 260 physicians work daily to extend the mission of providing compassionate, high quality health care services to the Santa Maria Valley and surrounding communities. Marian Medical Center is a member of Catholic Healthcare West, the largest Catholic healthcare system based in the Western United States with 40 hospitals and medical centers in California, Arizona and Nevada. For more information about Marian Medical Center or Catholic Healthcare West, visit our website at www.marianmedicalcenter.org.