

WHEN CANCER STRIKES, COST SHOULD NEVER COME BEFORE CARE



Each year, more than **11,000 people** across Western New York hear the words

“You have cancer.”

For most, that diagnosis marks the beginning of one of the most difficult journeys of their lives — one that demands trusted expertise, coordinated care and access to every possible treatment option.

For more than a century, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has been that place of hope — combining compassion with nationally recognized expertise found only at a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated comprehensive cancer center. Yet today, access to that care is being disrupted for thousands of local seniors and individuals with disabilities because one Medicare Advantage insurer has decided to “tier out” Roswell Park.

Real-World Impact for Patients: Higher Bills, Disrupted Cancer Care

This change doesn’t just affect contracts. It affects people. Patients will face dramatically higher out-of-pocket costs — often hundreds or even thousands of dollars more each month. For many seniors living on fixed incomes, that increase makes continued care at Roswell Park financially impossible. It may force them to leave the doctors who they trust and who will provide the best outcome in the middle of treatment — a disruption no one battling cancer should ever face.

High-Quality Care **Costs Less**

Cancer care is not a commodity. Measuring value by the price of each doctor visit or scan ignores what truly matters — the total cost of care over the full course of treatment. At Roswell Park:

Diagnoses are more accurate,	reducing delays, misdiagnoses and repeat testing.
Scans and pathology are rarely duplicated	because quality eliminates waste.
Integrated care teams coordinate all necessary specialties	to prevent complications, hospitalizations and emergency visits.
Our outcomes consistently exceed regional and national averages,	meaning more survivors, fewer side effects and lower long-term costs.

When cancer care is done right the first time, total costs decline — for patients, payers and the healthcare system.

A True Partner in Value-Based Care

Roswell Park is a leader in value-based oncology, actively collaborating with insurers and policymakers to make cancer care both high-quality and cost-responsible. We participate in advanced data-sharing, implement evidence-based pathways and measure performance by outcomes — not volume.

Our goal aligns perfectly with Medicare’s mission: to ensure every patient receives the right care, at the right time, in the right place, without unnecessary spending or barriers to access.

Tiering out Roswell Park sends the wrong signal. It penalizes the very kind of high-quality, evidence-driven, coordinated care that value-based medicine is meant to reward.

Protecting Access for Vulnerable Western New Yorkers

Nearly **55% of our patients are Medicare beneficiaries** — our parents, grandparents, children and neighbors. Many live on fixed incomes and can’t simply change insurance plans mid-year.

Roswell Park remains in-network with other Medicare Advantage and supplemental plans, and our team is helping patients find affordable options that preserve access. But our broader message is simple: **No one should lose access to expert cancer care because they can’t afford it.**

Cancer doesn’t wait — and neither should access to the right care. Roswell Park stands ready to work with insurers, regulators and community leaders to ensure that quality, value and patient choice remain at the center of Western New York’s cancer care system.

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center
Providing exceptional cancer care right here in
Western New York for over a century.

