GENERAL SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- **Unexplained weight loss.**
- **Fever.** More often happens after cancer has spread from starting area.
- **Fatigue.** Extreme tiredness that doesn't get better with rest.
- **Pain.** May be an early symptom. Most often, it's due to cancer that has spread.
- **Skin changes.** May include darker looking skin, yellowish skin and eyes, reddened skin, itching and excessive hair growth.

CANCER BASICS

- **Cancer is not just one disease.** There are many types of cancer.
- **How are they alike?** Cancer is when cells grow out of control and crowd out normal cells.
- **How are they different?** Some cancers grow and spread fast. Others more slowly. They also respond to treatments differently. Some are treated with surgery; others with chemotherapy, depending on the type of cancer.
- **What are tumors?** Most cancers form a lump called a tumor or growth. Not all lumps are cancer though. Doctors will examine a piece of the lump to find out if it's cancer.
- **What stage?** As a rule, a lower stage (1 or 2) means that cancer has not spread much. A higher number (3 or 4) means it has spread more. Stage 4 is the highest stage.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF CERTAIN CANCERS

- **Change in bowel or bladder functions:** Colon, bladder or prostate cancer.
- **Sores that don't heal:** skin or oral cancers.
- **White patches in mouth or white spots on tongue:** mouth cancer.
- **Unusual bleeding or discharge:** lung, colon, rectal, cervix, endometrium, bladder, kidney or breast cancer (depending on blood or discharge and areas).
- **Thickening or lump:** many cancers can be felt through the skin.
- **Indigestion or trouble swallowing:** esophagus, stomach or throat cancer.
- **Nagging cough or hoarseness:** lung or thyroid.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

http://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancerbasics/what-is-cancer

http://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/what-is-cancer