

# Your Cancer Healthcare Team

When you have cancer you have many different needs, so you are likely to see several healthcare providers. This sheet is a guide to healthcare providers who treat cancer.



## Who is on my cancer care team?

The providers described below are on many people's cancer care teams. You may see some other types of providers as well.

Put a checkmark next to the types of providers on your cancer care team.

**Oncologist:** A doctor who specializes in treating cancer. One oncologist will be in charge of your care, but you will probably see more than one. Oncologists specialize in different kinds of treatment. Some mostly do surgery, some use medicine, and some use radiation.

**Oncology nurse:** A nurse who treats cancer patients. Oncology nurses specialize in different kinds of care. A nurse may be the provider you see most often for cancer treatment. A nurse may be the person who:

- Examines you
- Gives you medicine (including chemotherapy)
- Asks about your health and how treatment is going for you
- Helps you get the care you need

**Primary care provider:** The provider you see for health issues other than cancer.

**Financial advisor (or financial navigator):** Someone who helps you understand the ways your cancer care can be paid for.

**Mental health worker:** Someone who can help with the emotional challenges that cancer brings. This may be a therapist or social worker.

**Patient navigator:** Someone who helps you solve problems related to your care. A patient navigator may:

- Help you keep track of appointments and medicines
- Make sure that everyone on your cancer team knows everything about your care

**Rehabilitation providers:** Healthcare professionals who help you get back some of the abilities that cancer or treatment has taken away. These include physical and occupational therapists.

**Registered dietician:** Someone who is trained to help you get the nutrition you need as you cope with cancer.

**Radiation therapist:** Someone who is trained to give radiation therapy. Radiation is a treatment that uses high energy to destroy cancer cells.



Write the names of your cancer care team members here:

Type of provider	Name	Contact information

### How can I talk with my cancer team?

Your care team wants to meet your needs and help your treatment succeed. You can take an active part by talking with them openly. Here are some ways to work with your team.

- Write down your questions in advance, so you remember them.
- Take notes on what your care team tells you.
- Have someone come with you to your appointments. They can help you remember what is said or questions you want to ask.
- Make sure you understand instructions for taking care of yourself before you leave. It's always OK to ask follow-up questions.



Write down the questions you want to ask your cancer team.

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### What do patients want to know?

Here are some questions you might want to ask while being treated for cancer:

- What is the name of this treatment?
- What is this treatment supposed to do?
- How long will this treatment take?  
How often do I come in for treatment?
- How long will the recovery time be?
- What kinds of side effects might I have?
- How serious are the side effects, and how many people have them?
- Can I keep doing my normal daily activities during treatment?