

PARTNERING WITH YOUR MEDICAL TEAM

»» Who is on your medical team in the hospital?

A large team of healthcare providers works together to care for people with cancer in the hospital. Each member of the team has a different role to play.

Team member	What they do
Medical oncologist	The doctor who leads the patient care team in the hospital. He or she is an expert in diagnosing and treating cancer. This doctor helps decide which medicines to use to treat the cancer and monitors how well the treatment is working.
Radiation oncologist	A doctor who is an expert in the use of radiation to treat cancer. This doctor plans radiation therapy and tracks response to treatment.
Oncology nurse	The skilled healthcare provider who spends the most time providing direct care for the person with cancer. He or she does everything from starting IVs to giving chemotherapy to offering comfort, support, and education.
Advanced practice nurse (in oncology)	An oncology nurse with advanced training. He or she works closely with doctors to plan treatment, manage side effects, control pain, and meet the needs of the patient with cancer. Advanced practice nurses also can participate in the care of patients in clinical trials.
Pharmacist	A healthcare provider who prepares medicines for cancer treatment, treatment-related side effects, and pain management.

Team member	What they do
Clinical social worker	A licensed counselor who helps patients and families cope with their fears and feelings and adjust to living with cancer. Also provides practical support to help families get the services they need to manage the demands of the illness.
Patient care coordinator	A hospital employee who can answer questions and help deal with matters related to insurance coverage and discharge planning.
Dietitian	An expert in nutrition who plans meals for cancer patients and helps solve eating problems caused by the cancer or the therapy.
Child life specialist	A healthcare provider who leads activities to help children and teenagers adjust to being in the hospital or the clinic.
Psychiatrist	The medical doctor who provides counseling and prescribes medicine to treat anxiety, depression, and other emotional problems that may occur after a cancer diagnosis.



PARTNERING WITH YOUR MEDICAL TEAM

» Whom should I go to for help?

It is good to know that there are so many people who can meet your needs in the hospital. The chart at right gives examples of issues that may come up and whom you could go to for help. The most important thing to remember is that there is someone who can help solve most treatment-related problems. If you need help, be sure to pick up the phone, press the call button, or walk over to the nurses' station and ask for help.

Helpful resources

These patient groups provide a wide range of support services to families coping with leukemia and lymphoma treatment:

CancerCare, Inc.
www.cancercares.org
800-813-4673

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
www.lls.org
800-955-4572

**CureSearch
(National Childhood Cancer Foundation and Children's Oncology Group)**
www.curesearch.org
800-458-6223

Patient Advocate Foundation
www.patientadvocate.org
800-532-5274

Issue	Whom to go to for help/Possible solution
Managing nausea and vomiting	Report these symptoms to the patient's nurse or medical oncologist . They can give medicines to ease these side effects of cancer treatment. They can also help solve eating problems.
Worrying about effects of radiation therapy	Ask to speak with the radiation oncologist . This medical doctor can explain the risks and benefits of using radiation to treat cancer.
Finding out about clinical trials	The advanced practice nurse or medical oncologist can tell you if the hospital is doing any research studies related to the specific type of cancer. They can also help you learn the qualifications needed to participate in a clinical trial.
Needing more pain medicine	Talk to a registered nurse or advanced practice nurse about getting another dose. Or ask about switching to a stronger pain medicine. The nurses can help find the medicine that works best. They can also tell you about ways to control pain without medicine.
Having a hard time dealing with everything that is going on	It may help to talk with the clinical social worker about your feelings, worries, and fear. Getting this kind of support is very important. You or your family members might also think about joining a support group for people with cancer. The social worker may also refer you to the team psychiatrist .
Getting help with insurance matters	The patient care coordinator can review the patient's health insurance plan and work with the insurance company to get services covered. They can also assist in discharge planning or arranging for home needs.



Provided as an educational service by

sanofi aventis
Because health matters

