

The Advantages of Partnering With Your Cancer Care Team

Resource Guide

Tips for Communicating With Your Healthcare Team

- Talk about your healthcare goals, concerns, or any questions you may have with your doctor.
- Don't be afraid to speak up if something doesn't feel right or if you have a new symptom or concern.
- Before an appointment, write down any questions you have, so you don't forget them and take notes during the visit.
- Ensure you have access to your patient portal and know how to use it.
- If necessary, ask for a translator and for materials in a language you are most comfortable with.
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Who May Be on Your Cancer Care Team?

Each of these team members plays a vital role. And you should utilize your **WHOLE team** – it really will make a difference in your overall health and wellness.

- **Medical oncologists** treat cancer patients with medicine.
- **Radiation oncologists** treat cancer patients with radiation.
- **Surgical oncologists** are surgeons who specialize in cancer.
- **Primary care doctors** manage a person's general health.
- **Nurses**, including oncology nurses and nurse practitioners, provide and coordinate patient care.
- **Physician assistants** are licensed clinicians who practice medicine and provide direct patient care.
- **Patient and nurse navigators** help people coordinate the details of their care.
- **Palliative care doctors and nurses** help prevent and treat cancer symptoms and side effects.
- **Patient navigators, nurse navigators, and social workers** assist with finding support services, such as counseling and financial resources.
- **Mental health professionals** help people with emotional issues and concerns.
- **Care partners**, also called **caregivers**, are family members or friends who support a person's care and may join them at appointments and talk through decisions.
- **Patients are the most important member of the team, and decisions should revolve around a patient's healthcare goals.**

If you don't have access or don't know how to use to your patient portal, reach out to your doctor's office for help – they usually have instructions to easily guide you through the setup process.

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