

## Your Care Team at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

It is important to know who is on your care team as you begin treatment at Rutgers Cancer Institute. Listed below are staff members and their roles.

- **Advanced Practice Nurse** [Also called APN, APP, and nurse practitioner (NP)] - A registered nurse who has additional education and training in how to diagnose and treat disease. An advanced practice nurse manages the care of patients and their families. They function in a similar way to physicians in that they may complete physical assessments and histories, organize treatment plans, help manage symptoms, and prescribe medicines.
- **Clinical Coordinator** - Oversees the day-to-day activities of a healthcare setting. Responsibilities may include managing staff, communicating with different departments, attending meetings, and ensuring adequate patient care.
- **Financial Counselor** - Offers financial assistance to patients regarding medical bills. They are often the liaison between patients and insurance companies.
- **Hospitalist** – A dedicated physician who works exclusively in the hospital. If you are hospitalized, you may see the hospitalist who will speak directly with your medical oncologist or APN. You may not see your oncologist or APN while hospitalized.
- **Medical Health Technician** (MHT) - A healthcare technician who provides direct care to patients with or without the supervision of registered nurses. A medical health technician will take your vitals (temperature, blood pressure, weight) before an appointment.
- **Medical Oncologist** - A doctor who has special training in diagnosing and treating cancer in adults and children using chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, biological therapy, and targeted therapy. A medical oncologist often is the main health care provider for someone who has cancer. They also give supportive care and may coordinate treatment given by other specialists.
- **Nurse Clinician** - A registered nurse who works with the healthcare team and provides nursing care to the patient before, during and after treatment. Nurse Clinicians specialize in different areas such as clinical research, stem cell transplant, and specific tumor groups.
- **Nurse Navigator** - Helps guide patients through the complicated health care system. Provides education, helps access resources, coordinates care with other healthcare providers, and assists in more practical matters such as getting transportation to appointments or finding a wig.
- **Nutritionist** - Registered dietitians who specialize in helping cancer patients and caregivers develop a nutrition plan while undergoing treatment and for survivorship. The nutritionists address questions surrounding diet and cancer and provide nutritional counseling for symptom management, weight management, and management of chronic diseases.
- **Patient Education Coordinator** – Manages and provides educational materials to patients and families. Coordinates educational programs and classes.
- **Patient Scheduler** - Provides services such as checking in patients for appointments and assisting with follow-up appointments as necessary.
- **Phlebotomist** - A health technician who uses a needle to take blood from a vein, usually for laboratory testing. This is also called blood draw or venipuncture.

- **Physician Assistant (PA)** - A health professional who is licensed to do certain medical procedures under the guidance of a doctor. A PA may take medical histories, do physical exams, take blood and urine samples, care for wounds, and give injections and immunizations.
- **Radiation Oncologist** – Specialist physician who uses radiation therapy in the treatment of cancer.
- **Resource and Learning Center Librarian** - A medical librarian who provides educational information to patients and caregivers from the time of diagnosis through all phases of survivorship.
- **Social Worker** – A licensed, clinical social worker (LCSW) is a professional who counsels patients and families, supports problem solving and decision making, and helps to facilitate good communication between patients, families, and providers. They do this by providing individual and family counseling, support groups and educational workshops. Other services include advanced care planning, addressing financial concerns (including disability), and linking patients and families to community resources.
- **Surgical Oncologist** - A surgeon who has special training in performing biopsies and other surgical procedures in cancer patients.
- **Treatment Nurse** – A registered nurse who is experienced in administering cancer medicines, managing side effects and coordinating care of the patient during treatments.

If you are in need of immediate assistance, please call 732-235-2465 and select the option that best meets your needs.