

Hospital Stay for Chemotherapy Treatment

You may need to stay in the hospital because of your chemotherapy (chemo). This factsheet tells you about this kind of hospital stay.

Why do I need to stay in the hospital?

There are two possible reasons:

- **Type of chemo.** With some cancer treatments, a care team needs to watch you for a few hours or days after infusion. This means you need to stay in the hospital. Your cancer doctor will tell you about the treatment plan and will schedule your time in the hospital.
- **Side effects or problems.** Sometimes patients get serious side effects or problems from their cancer. If the problems are so serious you cannot take care of them at home, you will need to stay in the hospital.

For both these types of stay, a hospital room may not be available right away. If this happens, you will stay in a temporary room until a room is ready for you.

What should I bring to the hospital?

If you know you will be staying at the hospital for chemo treatments, you can bring these things with you:

- **A list of all medicines you take.**
- **Clothing.** You may bring your own pajamas or wear hospital pajamas. You can also bring loose, comfortable clothing.
- **Slippers or shoes.** Please bring a pair of clean slippers or non-skid shoes that are easy to put on and take off. Always wear your slippers or shoes when you are out of bed. Take them off before getting back into bed.
- **Walking devices.** If you use a cane, walker, or crutches to get around at home, please be sure to bring it with you to the hospital.
- **Eyeglasses or contact lenses,** if you need them. Some types of chemo can make your eyes hurt if you wear contact lenses. Ask your doctor if it is OK for you to wear contact lenses during chemo.

- **Activities and entertainment.** You may bring items to help you pass the time while you are in the hospital:
 - Books
 - DVDs and CDs
 - Needlework, knitting, crocheting
 - Cell phone and charger
 - Laptop computer, electronic reader, music player, and chargers
 - Other hobbies or interests

Feel free to bring photographs of family, friends, pets, and loved ones to decorate your room. We want you to feel as at home and comfortable as possible.

Each room has a TV and DVD player.

If you stay in the hospital because of serious side effects, you may not be able to prepare ahead of time. Your caregivers can bring these items to you during your stay.

Please DO NOT bring the items below:

- Medicines from home, unless your care team tells you to do so
- Valuable items such as jewelry
- Electrical appliances
 - Hair dryers
 - Curling irons
 - Heating pads
 - Portable fans

Your Care Team

A different group of doctors, nurses, and assistants takes charge of your care when you are a hospital patient. You may not see the same cancer doctor as when you come for appointments.

Your hospital doctor will visit you in your room at least once a day. Often, the doctor will also bring other doctors to see you. A team of nurses and health care assistants will take care of you, day and night, while you are in the hospital. Learn more in the factsheet *Your Care Team*.

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Visitors

You may have visitors. There are no set visiting hours. For safety reasons, your visitors must check in at the desk near the elevators or at the nurses' station. Healthy people of any age may visit.

Every room in the Cancer Hospital is private. Each room has a couch that converts to a bed. One adult caregiver may stay with you overnight, if you choose. If you wish, you can ask that no visitors be allowed during all or part of your stay. Your nursing team will help make sure you do not get unwanted visitors.

How long will I stay in the hospital?

If you are in the hospital to get chemo treatment, the length of your stay will depend on your treatment plan. Your cancer care team will give you this information when they schedule your treatment and stay.

If you are in the hospital because of serious side effects, you will stay until it is safe for you to go home. Your hospital care team works with you and your caregivers to decide when the time is right.

What happens when I leave the hospital?

A nurse called a case manager will help organize the care you need after you go home:

- Home health care nurses
- Physical therapy
- Other services such as oxygen
- Skilled nursing facility, if you need it

A pharmacist or nurse will come to your room. They will review the medicines you have been taking and talk with you about any changes in your medicines.

Your nurses will talk with you about how to take care of yourself at home.

Once you leave the hospital, your usual cancer doctor takes charge of your care again. Within 48 hours of when you leave the hospital, that doctor's nurse will call to see how you are doing.

If you have questions after you leave the hospital, call your usual doctor.