

This factsheet tells about the health experts who may care for you at Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI).

You are the center of your care team.

The health care experts on your care team will recommend the best care available for you. You listen, ask questions, and decide what is best for you.

Usually, our patients see their doctors in clinics. If you have chemotherapy, you will get it in our Infusion Center. You do not have to stay in the hospital to be treated.

Other patients may have hospital stays to get surgery or chemotherapy. They may need to stay in the hospital if serious problems happen with their cancer.

The care teams in the clinic and in the hospital are different.

Doctors

The doctors at HCI are experienced oncologists (cancer doctors). They direct your care. You will see one or more of these doctors during your clinic visits.

- A *medical oncologist* is the main cancer doctor for most patients. These doctors treat cancer with chemotherapy and other medicines.
- A *surgical oncologist* treats cancer by removing tumors from your body. Some patients may need only surgery to treat their cancer. The surgeon may be their main cancer doctor.
- A *radiation oncologist* treats cancer tumors with focused beams of x-rays.

Many patients see more than one of these types of cancer doctors. These doctors meet often to coordinate the best way to treat each individual patient.

If you stay in the hospital, you may have different doctors. The hospital doctors work closely with your clinic doctors to make sure you get the best care.

HCI is a teaching hospital. When your hospital doctor visits your room, other health care providers and students will come along:

- A *fellow* is a licensed doctor. Fellows have finished 3 years or more of specialty training.
- *Residents and interns* also have the title of doctor. They get specialty training at HCI.
- *Medical students* are still earning their medical degrees. They may help in your care, supervised by your hospital doctor.

Advanced Practice Clinicians

At your clinic visits, you may see a nurse practitioner (NP) or physician assistant (PA). They have completed advanced medical training. NPs and PAs work with your clinic doctor. They can do exams and procedures, order tests, and write prescriptions.

If you stay in the hospital, you may also see an NP or PA who works with your hospital doctor.

Nurses

All the nurses at HCI are registered nurses (RN). Many HCI nurses have extra training in cancer care. They are oncology certified nurses (OCN).

In the clinics and the hospital, nurses give treatments and make sure you are safe. Your nurse can answer many of your questions about your care. Nurses also help you cope with side effects.

If you have a problem or question, your nurse is the best person to contact first.

In the hospital, a *case manager* coordinates your cancer care plan. Usually, this nurse helps you prepare for leaving the hospital. The case manager makes sure you have the support and care you need after you go home, such as the following:

- Home care nurses
- Equipment such as oxygen, wheelchairs, and walkers
- Physical therapy

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Other Care Providers

At your clinic visits, *medical assistants* check your vital signs:

- Weight
- Temperature
- Blood pressure
- Heart rate

They guide you to the exam room. These assistants can also help your doctor and nurse with procedures.

When you stay in the hospital, *health care assistants* check your vital signs. They also help you with daily activities:

- Getting out of bed
- Bathing
- Grooming

In the clinics and the hospital, *pharmacists* work with your doctors and nurses to coordinate your medicines. They can give you a lot of information about the medicines you are taking.

In the infusion clinic, pharmacists prepare your medicines in the combination and dose you need.

HCI Services for All Patients

Social workers help you cope with the emotions and life changes that come from a cancer diagnosis. They teach ways to manage stress and find support groups. Services are open to patients and family.

Our *chaplain* can give spiritual support to patients and loved ones. The chaplain can help you find meaning and comfort in difficult times. Our spiritual care service includes many faiths.

Our *registered dietitians* can give you the best advice about diet and nutrition. Consultations are free for HCI patients.

Patient Financial Services can help you with these issues:

- Working with your insurance companies to get coverage for high-cost services before treatments begin
- Making sense of medical bills, insurance plan coverage, and claims
- Setting up payment plans
- Finding state and federal programs to help pay for care, medicine, or supplies if you are not insured

We offer many wellness services for patients and their caregivers:

- Acupuncture
- Massage
- Fitness classes
- Music, art, and writing classes

Learn more at huntsmancancer.org/wellness.