

The Role of Bladder Cancer Healthcare Team Members

Urologist: This is a type of doctor who specializes in diseases of the urinary tract and can perform procedures and surgeries used to diagnose and treat bladder cancer.

Urologic Oncologist: A urologist who is specially trained in cancer care.

Medical Oncologist: A doctor who specializes in treating cancer with medications, such as chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and other drug treatments.

Radiation Oncologist: This is a type of doctor that has expertise in using radiation to treat cancer.

Primary Care Doctor: This is your main health provider for managing long-term health through routine checkups. Your primary care doctor should be kept informed about your bladder cancer diagnosis and treatment plan.

Nurse: These clinicians help to manage everyday challenges, better understand your treatment options, and answer questions.

Ostomy Nurse: If your bladder cancer care requires a urostomy, these specialized nurses can help you learn how to care for the stoma and manage the pouch.

Social Worker: This provider helps to address many of the everyday challenges of care, including financial assistance, transportation, emotional support, and other resources for you and your family.

Mental Health Professional: Includes counselors and therapists who can assist in managing your emotional well-being, providing care to cope with stress and anxiety throughout cancer care.

Palliative Care Specialist: Provides medical care focused on relieving pain and symptoms of patients living with a serious illness, aiming to improve the quality of life for both the patient and the family.

Dietitian: This expert offers advice on nutrition and eating habits to improve health. Dietitians also help people who are recovering from illness, surgery, or medical conditions, creating custom food plans to manage treatments, keep up their strength, and heal after surgery.

Physical Therapist: This provider treats people who have conditions that limit their ability to move and be physically active. In bladder cancer, they can help patients recover by improving core strength, treating urinary concerns and pelvic pain, and helping with mobility after surgery.

Keys to Communication With the Healthcare Team

- Make sure everyone on **your team understands your care goals** and what matters most to you.
- **Ensure you have access to your patient portal** so you can review your health information and use secure messaging to reach your healthcare team and ask questions when needed.
- **Bring someone to appointments** to take notes so that you remember important information. And don't hesitate to ask for written summaries or visit notes to review later.
- **Keep your team informed** about symptoms, treatment side effects, urinary changes, or any challenges that affect your quality of life.
- **Speak up during appointments.** Your team wants to hear your questions and understand how you are doing. The more they know, the better they can tailor your care plan to your needs.



Collaborate Bladder Cancer is brought to you by the Patient Empowerment Network. It is sponsored by Astellas Pharma Inc. and Pfizer Oncology, and through generous donations from people like you.