

Autologous Stem Cell Transplant Discharge Instructions

The following guidelines apply to your first 100 days after transplant. Ask your doctor for more specific instructions. Remember that the following may not apply to each individual patient. Please consult with the Bone Marrow Transplant team if you have additional questions.

As discussed and planned for before transplant, your caregiver will need to be with you **full-time the first 2 weeks** after hospital discharge.

- If you reside more than 100 miles from the hospital, you and your caregiver **must stay within 100 miles of the hospital for up to 1 week** after discharge.
- If you do not have lodging set up, ask to speak with the hospital social worker before you are discharged.

When do I need to call the BMT doctor?

- Temperature over 100.5 degrees Fahrenheit
- Shaking or chills
- New cough or difficulty breathing
- Persistent headaches
- Blurred or double vision
- Bleeding problems such as:
 - Nose bleeds
 - Blood in urine or stool
 - Vomiting blood
 - Increased bruising
- Pain with urination or bowel movements
- Decrease in frequency of urination
- New or persistent nausea/vomiting and/or if you have more than 3 vomiting episodes in an 8hr period
- New or persistent diarrhea and/or if you have more than 3 episodes in an

8hr period

- Problems with eating such as:
 - Unable to keep food, fluids, or medications down
 - Having no interest in eating
 - Difficulty swallowing
 - Sore throat
 - Development of mouth sores
- Pain that is not controlled with prescribed pain medications
- Changes or difficulty with your central line such as:
 - Difficulty flushing
 - Redness, drainage, pain, or site looks different
- Changes with skin color or new rash
- Reddened, swollen, or painful areas
- Change in wound (unusual pain, drainage, swelling, or redness)
- Changes in mental status or confusion
- Increased sleepiness
- Fevers, chills, or hives after getting a blood transfusion

How do I call?

The BMT Clinic is open Monday through Friday, from 8am to 5 pm. During these hours, call 734-647-8902. After 5pm, on weekends, and holidays, call 734- 936-6267 and ask for the BMT physician on-call. You can also refer to the handout in this section “BMT Discharge Contact Information.” This gives you several phone numbers that you may find helpful. If you have any questions or concerns about anything, do not hesitate to call.

How will I care for myself at home?

Handwashing and Hygiene

- Wash your hands often! At a minimum, you should wash your hands before eating, after bathroom use, and after contact with people and/or pets.

- Shower every day. Use liquid soap and new washcloth each day, do not use bar soap or loofa.

People, Places, and Preventing Infections

- Avoid anyone ill.
- Avoid crowds when possible.
- Limit exposure to children outside your immediate family who are less than 12 years old.
- Avoid wearing contact lenses. Wear eye glasses to prevent infection.
- Notify BMT clinic of exposure to communicable diseases (ie: chickenpox, shingles, flu, etc.).
- Deep cleaning of your house is not necessary before you go home, but have caregiver wipe down surfaces, dust, and vacuum.
- Avoid construction areas or anywhere dirt and soil are being moved.
- Avoid dirty, dusty, or moldy environments.
- Avoid lung irritants such as smoking, second hand smoke, aerosols, and spray paint.

Do I need to wear a mask?

- You do not need a mask unless you have a low white blood cell count (neutropenic), you are around construction, or someone is mowing the lawn. It is a good idea to keep a mask with you at all times while out in public in case you run into a crowd, construction, or someone mowing grass.

Bleeding Precautions

You are at highest risk of bleeding when your platelet count is 50,000 or less.

Take these precautions if this applies to you:

- Do not floss - use a soft tooth brush.

- Do not blow your nose harshly - use saline nasal spray to keep your nose moist and prevent nose bleeds.
- Do not rub your eyes - use artificial tears
- Do not scratch - use Eucerin lotion daily after showering.
- Do not strain with bowel movements.
- Do not have sexual intercourse (vaginal, anal).
- Do not shave with a blade razor – only use an electric razor for shaving and electric clippers for hair cutting.
- Do not play contact sports.
- Avoid popcorn and hard to chew items.
- Avoid vomiting – take your nausea meds as needed
- Do not put anything in your rectum or vagina (no enemas, tampons, vaginal dilators).
- Do not use Aspirin/Excedrin/Ibuprofen or medications that affect platelets.

Pets

- Current pets are ok. No contact with new pets, birds, reptiles, or farm animals.
- No pets sleeping with you.
- Wash hands after direct contact with pets.
- No contact with cat litter or any animal excretions.
- Avoid pets on raw food diets.
- No reptiles or amphibians should be kept in the house or handled by you.
- It is a good idea to keep your pet clean and their shots up to date.

Plants/Flowers/Gardening

- Plants may stay in the home but do not handle or care for them.
- Avoid direct contact with plants, trees, flowers and mulch.
- No yardwork, gardening or digging in soil.
- Go inside during lawn mowing.

- No live Christmas trees.
- Wood burning stoves & fireplaces may be used if vented properly. No wood should be stored in the house or handled by you.
- Avoid gardening, mowing grass, raking leaves.

Travel and Driving

Ask your doctor when you can travel and drive.

Return to work or school

In most cases, at or around 100 days after your transplant date you can return to work or school. Your return should be approved by your doctor, as individuals vary greatly in their time to recovery.

Skin and Sun

You will need to take steps to make sure you are protected from the sun, beginning on your transplant date. Your skin will be much more sensitive to the sun and will burn easily because of the high doses of chemotherapy used in transplant.

- Avoid exposure to sunlight, especially within the first 100 days after transplant.
- If exposure to sunlight is unavoidable, use as much protection as possible such as long sleeve shirts, long pants, hat, and sunscreen SPF 30 or higher.

Physical activity

- Gradually increase activity as tolerated. Activity outdoors, such as walking, is good for you.
- Trail Hiking is ok but no camping, hunting, fishing, or deep woods hiking.
- No contact sports such as soccer, hockey, basketball, football or strenuous weightlifting if platelet count is less than 50,000.
- No swimming in lakes, ponds, hot tubs, or public pools.

Sexual activity

- You can resume intercourse when your platelet count is greater than 50,000.
- Use standard safe sex precautions.
- Use a condom to prevent risk of infection.
- No anal intercourse.
- No kissing or oral sex if your partner has any mouth sores.
- Use water-based lube for vaginal dryness.

Diet and Food Safety

Use the FDA Food Safety booklet you received from the dietary team for the first 100 days after transplant, or as long as your doctor instructs you to use it.

Medications

You will receive specific instructions before you leave the hospital about the medications you are taking.

- Bring all medications you are taking and your list of medications to your clinic appointments.
- Only take what is prescribed to you.
- Avoid Acetaminophen (Tylenol®), Ibuprofen (Motrin®, Advil®), Aspirin (Bayer®, Excedrin®), and Naproxen (Aleve®) unless instructed by your doctor.
- Avoid herbal supplements and over the counter medications unless prescribed by a doctor.

Immunizations

You will need to be re-immunized beginning at 6 months after your transplant. You will be given an immunization schedule with recommendations.

What is my BMT follow-up care?

- Before you get discharged from the hospital, you will be given a date and time of when your first BMT clinic appointment is. This appointment will typically be within a few days of being discharged from the hospital.
- Be sure to get labs drawn prior to this appointment at the blood drawing station on level 2 of Mott Children and Women's Hospital.
- You will then proceed to the 7th floor of Mott Children and Women's Hospital and check into the BMT clinic at reception B.
- Additional follow-up BMT clinic visits will be scheduled at this time.

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