

Social Work Support Services for Cardiovascular Patients and Families

What is the role of the social worker?

Social workers can help you in many different ways. They focus on those personal, and often non-medical, issues that may accompany health and illness at any time. There is a social worker in most inpatient areas and at the Frankel Cardiovascular Clinic.

What services might the social worker provide?

For emotional support:

- Assistance coping with illness/treatment
- Treatment for distressing symptoms, such as sadness, anxiety and depression
- Individual, group, couples, and family therapy
- Coping with grief and loss
- Support for family members experiencing caregiver stress, grief or bereavement
- Crisis intervention for domestic violence or abuse
- Referrals for substance abuse treatment
- Help with difficult decisions often encountered, including:
 - Goals of care
 - Assigning a durable power of attorney (DOA) for healthcare
 - Living wills and other advanced directives
 - Decisions about “DNR” or resuscitation

For practical concerns:

- Assistance with insurance including Medicare, Medicaid and other benefits
- Information about government programs

- Referrals to community programs for unmet needs
- Pharmacy assistance for prescriptions
- Costs for medications, supplies and equipment
- Lodging assistance for an upcoming appointment
- Transportation and parking assistance

How do I request a consultation with a social worker?

You can ask for a social worker when you are in the hospital or at an outpatient appointment. You can also call the **Care Connect** line at **(734) 539-5006** to be connected to our cardiovascular social worker.

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CVC Control #694

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