

Your Liver Transplant Team

Transplant Nurse Coordinator

A registered nurse who specializes in liver disease and patients needing transplantation. A pre-transplant nurse coordinator helps the team in the evaluation, education and pre-transplant care of the patient. A pre-transplant nurse maintains patient medical information, monitors labs and medications, and works closely with the transplant doctor on patient care issues. They are responsible for managing your case to ensure each detail for clearance to transplant has been reviewed and approved. They are the primary communication link between you and your providers before transplantation.

Hepatologist

A doctor who is an expert in liver disease. Your hepatologist is responsible for determining your medical need for a transplant, managing your medical needs before transplant and managing your medical care following transplant.



Transplant Surgeon

A doctor who performs the liver transplant surgery. Your surgeon is responsible for evaluating your medical condition in preparation for transplant surgery, discussing the transplant with you, performing the surgery, and providing post-operative care for a defined period following surgery. Since the surgeons on the transplant team have a rotating schedule, the surgeon who performs your surgery may not be the same surgeon you see during the inpatient stay or at clinic visits.

Post-Transplant Nurse

A registered nurse (RN) who specializes in liver disease, and more specifically, in patients after transplantation. A post-transplant nurse assists the team in providing post-transplant care to the patient. A post-transplant nurse maintains medical information, monitor labs and medications, and works closely with the surgeon and the hepatologist on patient care issues.

Transplant Advanced Practice Provider

Advanced practice providers include physician assistants (PA) and nurse practitioners (NP) who work closely with the hepatologists and transplant surgeons to provide medical care to patients before and after transplant. They may be involved in the initial diagnosis of your liver disease, the transplant evaluation, the management of active medical problems and/or medication adjustments.

Transplant Social Worker

A professional who helps patients and their families understand and cope with a variety of problems (such as emotional, family, financial, job/work) associated with liver disease and the transplant process. Social workers provide ongoing education and support throughout the transplant process and beyond.

Financial Coordinator

Financial coordinators work with patients and their families to help them understand the various financial aspects of transplantation. They work with your insurance carrier to verify coverage, help in obtaining prior authorization for transplant services, and work with patients with limited insurance coverage to explore other funding opportunities.

Clinical Research

The Clinical Research Team manages the clinical research studies designed to improve the understanding of transplantation and enhance the outcomes for all patients. Research staff responsibilities include identifying eligible patients, informing patients about research options, enrolling patients in research studies, collecting research data and coordinating research care. The research team works closely with the clinical team to provide patients access to cutting-edge therapies before they are available everywhere.

Transplant Pharmacist

A pharmacist who has knowledge, training and experience in transplant medications is available to work with you, your family and the rest of the transplant team with regard to managing your transplant medications during your entire transplant journey.

Registered Dietitian

A dietitian will work with you to determine your current nutritional status and then will provide education regarding nutritional needs, restrictions and supplements that may be necessary to keep you as healthy as possible, before and after the transplant.

Transplant Unit Staff Nurse

Unit staff nurses work closely with the patient during the transplant inpatient stay. They are responsible for providing patient care, education, and training on tests, medications and follow-up care. Since unit nurses work as a team on a rotating schedule, you may have several nurses during your inpatient stay.

Primary Care Physician (PCP) or Family Physician

A primary care physician is a title used by insurance companies to identify the doctor who is responsible for providing your general medical care and authorizing referrals for specialty care. If you do not have a managed care insurance policy, the term “family physician” might be more common.

