

Transplant Team Members

Transplant Surgeons

Transplant surgeons meet with the patients and families during the evaluation process to perform:

- A medical evaluation
- Explain the surgical process
- Review your risks
- Review benefits of transplant

The transplant surgeon performs the transplant surgery. They also work with the medical doctors to manage the patients care after the transplant.

Medical Specialists

Nephrologists are doctors who focus on kidney disease. Hepatologists are doctors who focus on liver disease. They assess the patient to decide if a transplant will be of help. They stay involved in the patient's care while on the waiting list and long-term after the transplant.

Pre-Transplant Nurse Planners

Pre-transplant planners are in charge of planning patients care before transplant. This is from the time of the first referral until the time a transplant is received. They help arrange the testing required for placing a patient on the waitlist. A pre-transplant planner assists patients through the assessment process. They work closely with the patient and talking with:

- Local doctors
- Dialysis units
- Other healthcare facilities
- Outpatient clinics

Post-Transplant Nurse Planners

Post-transplant planners assist with planning every aspect of transplant care. This is from the time of transplant through long-term, post-transplant care. They serve as the patient's link to the transplant team after the patient goes home. Planners assist the doctors in:

- Medical management of the patient
- Provide ongoing education for the patient and family
- Act as patient advocates

Follow up care will include contact with local doctors and other healthcare facilities.

Clinical Social Workers

Clinical social workers:

- Conduct a psychosocial assessment
- Discuss available community resources to the patient
- Assist with financial resources
- Work with other members of the transplant team to support patients emotionally

The social worker will provide information and help with completion of advance directives. They can also assist the patient and families with support groups.

Clinical Dieticians

Clinical dieticians work with patients and their families to evaluate the patient's nutritional status. They develop a plan for good nutrition throughout the transplant process.

Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners

Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners assist with inpatient and outpatient care. They help organize the patient's discharge needs by checking on:

- Patient recovery
- Assist in daily medical management after transplant surgery
- Immunosuppression management
- Assist doctors in every aspect of patient care

Surgical Residents & Transplant Fellows

Surgical residents and transplant fellows assist with inpatient care to include:

- Preparing patients for surgery
- Assisting in the operating room
- Helping to manage post-operative issues

They work with the surgeons and other team members to prepare for discharge. Patients may also see transplant fellows at transplant clinic visits.

Financial Counselors

Financial counselors work with patients and their insurance companies both before and after transplant. They help with financial matters such as:

- Billing
- Collection
- Deductibles
- Drug coverage
- Co-insurance

They are in charge of the patient's education about the financial aspects of transplant. They are the best resource for help with any insurance related questions.

Transplant Pharmacists

Transplant pharmacists work closely with doctors, nursing staff, and the patient to ensure medicines are used correctly. The pharmacists work with the rest of the transplant team. They find the best way to diminish the side effects a patient may have due to immunosuppression and other medicine used during the transplant. They also help with managing the medicine schedules.

Inpatient Transplant Nurses

Inpatient transplant nurses specialize in the care and treatment of patients during their hospital stay. Patients are assigned a primary nurse for their inpatient nursing care. They will work health care team to prepare patients for their discharge.

Discharge Case Managers

Discharge case managers work with patients and families to prepare them to leave the hospital. Some patients need skilled nursing care after leaving the hospital. Discharge case managers assist with arranging these services.

Transplant Clinic Nurses

Transplant clinic nurses care for patients during clinic visits. They also help with numerous outpatient procedures. The clinic nurses provide care and support for patients during the recovery period and assist in setting up required follow-up care. They provide ongoing education for patients and their families.

Office Support Staff/Department Assistants

Members of the transplant office support staff provide phone triage to planners and other staff and assist in management of outpatient medical information. They help planners manage patient lab results and daily patient issues or concerns.

Spiritual Care

Chaplains help many patients and families receive comfort and meaning from their faith during illness recovery. Our chaplains provide spiritual and emotional support and perform sacraments. Faith and medicine opportunities are provided at the hospital chapel. Catholic and Protestant services are held on Sundays.

Other Doctor Consultations

Other doctor consults may be required either during the transplant evaluation or at any period after transplant to address your special needs. UW Hospital and Clinics have many specialized expert doctors that can be consulted to work together. This is to provide the best care possible. Infectious disease, dental, endocrine, cardiology, hepatology, gastroenterology, dermatology, urology, and rehabilitation and are just a few of the teams that are available to assist in your care.

Other Services

Other services are available to help patients and their families. For example, interpreter services can be made available for anyone needing translation services. Housing assistance can help the patient and family should temporary housing be needed.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright ©6/2019. University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#6776.