

THE TRANSPLANT TEAM

There are many people who are involved in helping you through the transplant process. We refer to these professionals as the Transplant Team. This team will assist you throughout your transplant including the workup process, the waiting period, and the post-transplant phase.

Transplant Surgeons

There are a number of highly skilled and experienced transplant surgeons on the team. You will meet one of these surgeons during your initial consultation. The whole team will follow you both before surgery and after surgery, along with your primary physician. The surgeon who will perform your surgery will depend on who is on call when an organ becomes available.

Transplant Coordinator/Nurse Practitioner

Your Transplant Coordinator is a highly experienced registered nurse or nurse practitioner (a nurse with advanced training), who is trained specifically in organ transplantation. He/she will play a very important role before and after your transplant. Your Coordinator will facilitate your transplant workup, follow you during the waiting period, and coordinate the transplant process. One of his/her key responsibilities is to help you and your family to understand the transplant process and answer any questions you may have.

In the post-transplant phase, your Coordinator will teach you how to care for yourself when you return home from the hospital, answer any questions you or your family may have, and assist in your followup care. A program coordinator is always available from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays and is on call 24 hours a day for medical emergencies at (212) 263-8134.

Primary Care Physicians

Your referring physician will continue to follow you along with the Transplant Team both before and after your transplant. It is important for you and your primary physician to keep the Transplant Team updated on your medical condition.

Inpatient Transplant Registered Nurses

After your surgery you will be admitted to the Transplant Intensive Care Unit on 14 West, where your care will be provided by experienced registered nurses educated and trained specifically in organ transplant. They will provide your postoperative care and the education that you and your family will need upon your discharge.

Transplant Social Worker

You will be required to meet with the transplant social worker during the evaluation period. He/she will be available throughout the transplant process to provide support for you and your family in dealing with stress and issues associated with living with a chronic illness and having an organ transplant. He/she can advise you about Medicare, Medicaid and other insurance coverage, home care, and transportation. The social worker is an integral part of the Transplant Team and provides support groups and monthly seminars pertaining to transplant issues.

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Transplant Nutritionist

A nutritionist will meet with you to discuss your current diet in order to ensure that you are eating the appropriate foods to stay as healthy as possible while waiting for a transplant.

Consulting Physicians

Depending on your previous medical history, you may be asked to see other specialists during the evaluation period. These specialists may include a cardiologist (heart), pulmonologist (lung), hepatologist (liver), nephrologist (kidney), or a psychiatrist. If you have a cancer you will also meet with our oncologist, Dr. Alec Goldenberg. It will be your responsibility to set up appointments with these physicians, prior to being placed on the transplant waiting list.