



SURVIVORSHIP

Continuing Communication after Treatment and Beyond

Since you may not see your healthcare team as frequently as you did when you were in active treatment, it is important to communicate well during follow-up appointments.

Work with your healthcare team to create a written survivorship care plan. All cancer survivors should receive a survivorship care plan. If you do not, ask for one.

TIPS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM

- Ask who your designated contact for follow-up care will be. Will your care transfer to your primary care provider (PCP) or will you continue to see your hematologist/oncologist regularly? Ask whom to contact if you have questions or concerns between appointments.
- Keep a list of your questions in a designated notebook and take it with you to all appointments. If you feel like a question cannot wait until your next appointment or a concern causes you anxiety, reach out to your healthcare team.
- Use a calendar app on your mobile phone or other method to remember all of your follow-up appointments. You may schedule appointments months in advance so they may be easy to forget.
- Ask how you can access your patient portal. Many hospitals and treatment centers now offer patient portals where you can view your upcoming appointments, message your providers, view and pay bills, and more.
- Tell your healthcare team about any new or worsening side effects.
- Update your healthcare team of new diagnoses, medications, surgeries, procedures or hospitalizations.
- Do not start or stop taking any medications, vitamins, or supplements without consulting your doctor.
- Tell your healthcare team about your family plans such as pregnancy, breast feeding, or plans to conceive.
- Let your healthcare team know of any changes to your health insurance coverage or contact information.



PRIMARY HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL CONTACT FOR SURVIVORSHIP CARE

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

All of your questions are important. Do not feel embarrassed to ask them. You deserve to have your concerns addressed.

Survivorship Care Plan Checklist

Your survivorship care plan should include the following information:

- List all of your healthcare providers: PCP, hematologist-oncologist, radiation oncologist, etc.
- Diagnosis summary with specifics such as stage, sites of involvement, and molecular or genetic markers
- Treatment summary with specifics such as names of chemotherapy or biological agents used, radiation (type, dose, site), response to treatment, and side effects
- Maintenance treatment information with name of medication, dosage, and duration
- Follow-up appointment schedule with coordinating provider and frequency
- Schedule for ongoing monitoring with recommended tests and frequency
- List of possible late- and long-term side effects
- Health and wellness lifestyle recommendations such as nutrition, exercise, other cancer and disease screenings, and referrals to specialists (as needed) to assist with these recommendations

You can find examples of survivorship care plans at www.journeyforward.org or <https://oncolife.oncolink.org/>. Share your survivorship care plan with any new healthcare providers you see.

Visit www.LLS.org/WhatToAsk for the full **Communicating With Your Healthcare Team** series and printable question guides.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM

As you move into survivorship, be sure you have answers to the following questions:

- Will you provide me with a written survivorship care plan?
- Which members of my healthcare team will be responsible for which aspects of my follow-up and survivorship care?
- Does my survivorship care plan include maintenance therapy? If so, what is the proposed maintenance therapy, and how long will I receive it? (Not all patients will receive maintenance therapy.)
- What are the signs or symptoms that may indicate a relapse or recurrence?
- What are possible late- and long-term side effects of the treatment I received?
- What can I do to manage these side effects?
- What can I do to promote wellbeing during survivorship?

GET SUPPORT. REACH OUT TO OUR INFORMATION SPECIALISTS

Contact us at **800.955.4572** or www.LLS.org/InformationSpecialists.