Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Advanced Practice Providers

This information explains the role of advanced practice providers (APPs).

During your care at MSK, you will be seen by APPs. They are healthcare providers who have specialized training and work alone or with your doctor to care for you. Nurse practitioners (NPs), physician assistants (PAs), and certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) are examples of APPs.

Your APP's role on your healthcare team

Sometimes you will be seen by your APP instead of your doctor. Your APP can give you some of the same care as your doctor, including:

- Talk with you about your medical, family, and social history.
- Give you a physical exam.
- Order medical tests, such as x-rays, scans, and blood tests.
- Do medical procedures, such as biopsies (small tissue samples) and inserting central lines.
- Review your test results with you.
- Help plan your treatment.
- Prescribe medications.
- Help you manage side effects of your treatment.
- Help you with caring for yourself before and after your surgery.
- Help you with your anesthesia care (medication to make you sleep during surgery).
- Recommend screening tests for other cancers.

- Look for signs of cancer recurrence (cancer coming back).
- Give you information and counseling about living a healthy lifestyle (such as dieting, exercising, and quitting smoking).
- Give you a referral to see another healthcare provider, if needed.

If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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