Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

About Private Duty Nurses and Companions

This information explains the role of a private duty nurse or companion, and how you can hire one at MSK.

Private Duty Nurses and Companions

Private duty nurses

At MSK, private duty nurses are registered nurses (RNs) who are licensed to practice nursing in New York State. Private duty nurses:

- Help you take your medication.
- Help give you your treatment.
- Change your dressing (bandages).
- Tell your doctor and nurse how you're doing.

Private duty companions

Companions are nursing aides who completed a nursing health training program to help you with activities of daily living. This can include help with bathing, or changing your bed sheets.

Both provide private duty services. Private duty nurses and companions are separate from your MSK nurses. They don’t work for MSK, but they must follow MSK’s policies and procedures.

Private Duty Services

You may need private duty services if:

- You had a major surgery or procedure.
- You’re confused at times. Some medications may cause this.
- You’re at risk for falling.

Paying for private duty services

Private duty nurses and companions don’t work for MSK. You or your caregiver must pay them directly. For more information about paying for a private duty nurse or companion, call Alvita® Home Care at 917-862-6373.

Your insurance company may or may not pay for private duty services. Check with your insurance company before hiring a private duty nurse or companion.

Hiring a Private Duty Nurse or Companion

Private nurses or companions can care for you in the hospital and at home. You can hire a private duty nurse or companion by calling Alvita Home Care at 917-862-6373.

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

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