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 Memorial Sloan Kettering (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, such as:

- Bathing
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 the Private Duty office at 212-639-6892.

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

You can hire a private duty nurse or companion by calling 212-639-6892 or visiting the Private Duty office located at:

Memorial Hospital in the Howard Building
Room 106
1275 York Avenue, between East 67th and East 68th Streets
New York, NY 10065

The Private Duty office is open every day from 8:00 AM to 8:30 PM. The office is closed between 1:30 PM and 2:30 PM daily.

It takes about 3 hours to process your request for a private duty nurse or companion. Make your request more than 3 hours before the time you want your private duty services to start. If you need to cancel your request, you must do so by 5:00 pm or 5:00 am.

If you have any questions or if you would like to change your private duty nurse or companion, call 212-639-6892.

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