

» GLOSSARY OF CANCER-RELATED PHYSICIANS, SURGEONS, AND OTHER HEALTHCARE TEAM MEMBERS

ANESTHESIOLOGIST: A doctor who specializes in giving medicines or other agents that prevent or relieve pain, especially during surgery

ENDOCRINOLOGIST: A doctor who specializes in diseases related to the endocrine system (e.g., thyroid, pancreas, adrenal)

GASTROENTEROLOGIST: A doctor who specializes in diseases of the digestive (gastrointestinal) tract

GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGIST: A doctor who specializes in cancers of women's reproductive organs

GYNECOLOGIST: A doctor who specializes in women's health

HEMATOLOGIST: A doctor who specializes in diseases of the blood and blood-forming tissues

MEDICAL ONCOLOGIST: A doctor who is specially trained to diagnose and treat cancer with chemotherapy and other drugs

NEPHROLOGIST: A doctor who specializes in diseases of the kidneys

NEUROSURGEON: A doctor specializing in operations to treat nervous system disorders

NURSE PRACTITIONER: A registered nurse with a master's or doctoral degree. Licensed nurse practitioners diagnose and manage illness and disease, usually working closely with doctors.

ONCOLOGIST: A doctor with special training in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer

ONCOLOGY CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST: A registered nurse with a master's degree in oncology nursing who specializes in the care of cancer patients. Oncology nurse specialists may prepare and administer treatments, monitor patients, prescribe and provide supportive care, and teach and counsel patients and their families.

OPHTHALMOLOGIST: A medical doctor who specializes in diseases of the eye

ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEON: A surgeon who specializes in surgery of the mouth, jaw, and face

ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON: A surgeon who specializes in disease and injuries of the bones

OTOLARYNGOLOGIST (HEAD AND NECK SURGEON): A doctor who specializes in diseases of the ear, nose, and throat

PAIN SPECIALIST: Oncologist, neurologists, anesthesiologists, neurosurgeons, and other doctors, nurses, or pharmacists who are experts in pain. A special team of health professionals may be available to address issues of pain control.

PATHOLOGIST: A doctor who specializes in diagnosis and classification of diseases by laboratory tests such as examining cells under a microscope. The pathologist determines whether a tumor is benign or cancerous, and, if cancerous, the exact cell type and grade.

PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGIST: A doctor who specializes in cancers in children

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (PA): A licensed professional, usually with a master's degree, who is trained in diagnosis and treatment of diseases. The PA works on a team with one or more physicians.

PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGEON: A surgeon specializing in restoring appearance or in the reconstruction of removed or injured body parts

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN: The doctor a person would normally see first when a problem arises. A primary care doctor could be a general practitioner, a family practice doctor, a gynecologist, a pediatrician, or an internal medicine doctor (an internist).

PSYCHIATRIST: A medical doctor specializing in mental health and behavioral disorders. Psychiatrists provide counseling and can prescribe medications.

PULMONOLOGIST: A doctor who has specialized experience and knowledge in the diagnosis and treatment of pulmonary (lung) conditions and diseases

RADIATION THERAPIST: A person with special training to work the equipment that delivers radiation therapy

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST: A health professional (not a doctor) trained to position patients for x-rays, take images (films), and then develop and check the images for quality. The images taken by the technologist are sent to a radiologist to be read.

RADIOLOGIST: A doctor with special training in diagnosis of diseases by interpreting x-rays and other types of diagnostic imaging studies (e.g., CT scan, MRI scan)

SURGICAL ONCOLOGIST: A doctor who specializes in using surgery to treat cancer

THORACIC SURGEON: A doctor who performs surgery to the chest cavity

UROLOGIST: A doctor who specializes in treating problems of the urinary tract in men and women, and of the genital area in men