

For the Patient with a New or Suspected Lung Cancer Diagnosis

During your hospitalization, your care team confirmed a new lung cancer diagnosis or shared that you may have lung cancer.



What is lung cancer?

Lung cancer is an abnormal growth of the cells within the lungs. This abnormal growth of cells can spread within and outside the lungs. The two key types of lung cancer are non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and small cell lung cancer (SCLC). Your lung cancer is diagnosed after your physician conducts a series of tests.

How is lung cancer treated?

Many options are now available to treat lung cancer, even if it has spread. Treatments include surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy. Treatments vary depending upon the stage of your cancer.

Are there other treatments besides surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy?

Recent advances in therapy have improved our care of patients with lung cancer. The cancer cells will be analyzed for molecular markers and genetic changes which drive cancer cell growth. After reviewing your studies, your oncologist may recommend immunotherapy or therapeutics according to the genetic changes. Your oncologist and team of physicians will work to develop an individualized treatment plan based on your goals, medical conditions and cancer status.

What should I do while I wait to see the oncologist after I am discharged from the hospital?

It may take several weeks for all the necessary testing to be complete to confirm your diagnosis or formulate your individual treatment plan. The stronger and healthier you are, the more options your doctor and care team may have for treating you. Eat a balanced and nutritious diet to maintain your weight. Stay as active as you can. Even walking daily can help prepare you for treatment.

Before you leave the hospital, your nurse and physician will share a follow-up care plan which includes information about your next appointments. It is extremely important that you do not delay care and that you follow up promptly to enhance your care and health outcomes.

If you have questions about next steps regarding your care plan once you are discharged from the hospital you may call: _____ at _____.