ONCOLOGY NURSE NAVIGATOR – A Guiding Hand to Hold
The Moment a Diagnosis Is Suspected, Our Experienced Nurse Navigators Connect With You.

Our nurse navigators guide you through your cancer care by providing:

• Answers to your questions and education about your diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship.
• Advocacy and support for you and your family.
• Enhanced continuity of care, which can result in improved health outcomes for you.
• A constant point of contact for communication with all the members of your cancer team.
• Encouragement for participation in our Complimentary Classes and Care Programs – these programs focus on your physical fitness, nutrition, stress management.

Ruth Todd, RN, BSN, CMS, CN-BN
Breast Health Nurse Navigator – AMITA Health Alexian Brothers Medical Center

- BSN, University of Illinois, Chicago
- Certified breast cancer nurse navigator
- MammaCare® specialist and instructor in clinical breast exam and breast self-exam
- Registered oncology nurse with past experience in pediatrics, orthopedics, public health, women’s health
- Member of National Consortium of Breast Centers

“As a nurse navigator I consider it a privilege to come alongside patients and their families at a critical time of need in their journey with breast cancer, providing a better understanding of diagnosis, information about supportive services, assistance with all aspects of navigating the health system and as someone to call when they just need to talk.”

Jennifer Barnas, RN, BSN, OCN, CBCN
Breast Health Nurse Navigator – AMITA Health St. Alexius Medical Center

- BSN, Bradley University, Peoria, IL
- Oncology Certified Nurse
- Certified Breast Care Nurse
- Several years’ experience in medical oncology, surgical oncology, pediatric oncology, chemotherapy/biotherapy infusion and stem cell transplant therapy
- Member of Oncology Nursing Society

“As an oncology nurse navigator, I am a resource for patients and their families from the time of diagnosis, throughout treatment, and into survivorship. I strive to provide patients with a complete understanding of their breast cancer diagnosis and offer guidance throughout the healthcare system.”

To talk to one of our nurse navigators, call 1.844.952.HOPE (4673).
Melissa Erkman, RN, BSN, MSN, ONC
Gastrointestinal Oncology Nurse Navigator

- BSN, Northern Illinois University and MSN, Benedictine University
- Registered nurse in oncology
- Oncology Certified Nurse and Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse
- Member of Oncology Nursing Society, National League for Nursing and Academy of Oncology Nurse Navigators

“Oncology nurse navigation provides patients with assistance and support during all stages of their cancer care. Advocating for our patients with a helping hand and a listening ear is my priority to help them through their journey.”

Lucy Ziccardi, BA, RN, OCN
Lung Oncology Nurse Navigator

- BA, Regis University in Denver, CO; RN, Harper College, IL; and MSN in pursuit at Capella University
- Oncology nurse, with experience in chemotherapy infusion, oncology research and hospice home care
- Member of Oncology Nursing Society

“Being a nurse navigator is all about bringing peace of mind to patients during a difficult time. Having a nurse navigator means the patient always has someone there to answer questions and offer guidance.”

Mary Gleason, RN, BSN OCN
Oncology Nurse Navigator

- BSN, Lewis University
- Oncology Certified Nurse
- Member Oncology Nursing Society

“As a nurse navigator, I serve as a patient advocate. My primary role is to remove any barriers to care that patients encounter and to help manage the physical, emotional and financial burden of cancer diagnosis, treatment and beyond. I have served as board member for the Regional ACS and Chicago Western Suburbs Oncology Nursing Society for many years advocating for cancer patients and their families.”

Khushali Thakkar, RN, BSN
Oncology Nurse Navigator

- BSN, Northern Illinois University
- Registered nurse in oncology
- Certified nurse in chemotherapy

“As a nurse navigator I provide patient and their caregivers with guidance to make informed decisions and help them collaborate with multidisciplinary team to allow for timely cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment and increase supportive care. I feel honored to be able to provide care and support to our patients and families.”