

Role of the Nurse Navigator

At Baptist MD Anderson, nurse navigators guide patients throughout their cancer journey. More specifically, the nurse navigator acts as a central point of contact for a patient and coordinates all components involved in his or her clinical care, patient education and supportive services. Each nurse navigator has a clinical background and serves as an essential member of the multidisciplinary care team.

The role of the nurse navigator includes:

Navigation

- Serving as a liaison between patients, doctors, hospital staff and clinical departments to facilitate a patient's care
- Facilitating multidisciplinary cancer meetings to discuss a patient's case
- Promoting and supporting opportunities for participation in clinical trials

Support

- Assessing the needs of patients, their families and caregivers
- Meeting patients' unmet needs with appropriate support services and referrals as appropriate

Education

- Providing education to patients, families and caregivers, including orienting them to the health system and explaining multidisciplinary team member roles

Wellness

- Maintaining follow-up with patients while at home to provide educational support and comfort to ensure recommendations are followed
- Promoting healthy lifestyle choices and self-care strategies through education and appropriate referrals to supportive services

