Brain Tumor Resources

Having an illness can be stressful. Whether you are in the hospital or being treated as an outpatient, medical social workers are available to help you and your caregivers. Oncology social workers are licensed professionals who provide counseling and help with needs such as:

- Coping with illness and disabling conditions
- Home health care and medical equipment
- Placement at a nursing home or rehabilitation center
- Finances, housing and transportation
- Advance Directives, Living Will or guardianship
- Information and referral to community agencies, services and support groups
- Substance abuse issues and treatment choices
- Family and marital issues
- Social or emotional problems that may be affected by a medical condition or treatment

Advance Directives - An advance directive tells your doctors and other health care workers what types of care you would like to have if you become unable to make medical decisions.

- **Living Will** - A living will is a document that describes the type of medical treatment you want in certain situations. It only comes into effect if you are terminally ill or permanently unconscious.

- **DNR** - A do not resuscitate (DNR) order is one type of advance directive. This allows you to ask not to have cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or other treatment to try to revive you if your heart stops or if you stop breathing.

This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

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• **Health Care Power of Attorney** - A health care power of attorney is another type of advance directive. This document states who you choose to speak for you about health care decisions if you are unable to do so yourself.

**Disability** - Disability insurance programs may offer added health insurance benefits and wage or partial wage replacement. You may qualify for disability benefits through your employer or Social Security Disability. Call your employer benefits coordinator for specific questions or requirements. For more information about Social Security, call (800) 772-1213 or visit [http://www.ssa.gov/](http://www.ssa.gov/)

**Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)** - FMLA lets eligible employees to take unpaid, job-protected leave for specified family and medical reasons with continuation of group health insurance coverage under the same terms and conditions as if the employee had not taken leave. For more information on the rules and requirements for FMLA, call the Department of Labor at (866) 487-9243 or visit [http://www.dol.gov/whd/fmla/](http://www.dol.gov/whd/fmla/)

**Financial Assistance and Billing** - You may have questions about your bills and financial assistance programs. Call the number listed on your bill for answers to your questions or you may call the Office of Financial Counseling at 614-293-0860 for more information. [http://cancer.osu.edu/patientsandvisitors/guide/billing/financial_aid/pages/index.aspx](http://cancer.osu.edu/patientsandvisitors/guide/billing/financial_aid/pages/index.aspx)

**Other Resources Available** - Here is a list of resources that you can use to find more information, education, assistance, and support.

• **The American Cancer Society (ACS)** - ACS gives information about cancer, treatment, caregiving and survivorship. You may call (800) 227-2345 or visit [http://www.cancer.org/index](http://www.cancer.org/index)

• **CancerCare** - Gives free, professional support services to individuals, families, caregivers to help them cope with and manage the challenges caused by a cancer diagnosis. Services include counseling and support groups, educational materials and workshops, and financial assistance. Services are provided by licensed oncology social workers. For more information, call (800) 813-HOPE (4673) or visit [http://www.cancercare.org/](http://www.cancercare.org/)
• **American Brain Tumor Association** - This organization provides resources for brain tumor patients and caregivers from diagnosis through treatment and beyond. For more information, call (800) 886-ABTA (2282) or visit [http://www.abta.org/](http://www.abta.org/)

• **JamesCare for Life** - Offers a wide range of programs to support patients, families and caregivers during and after cancer. These include support groups, educational classes, expressive arts programs, workshops, and special events. The programs are free and provide help with healing and recovery. Call (800) 293-5066 or visit [http://cancer.osu.edu/patientsandvisitors/cancerinfo/support/Pages/index.aspx](http://cancer.osu.edu/patientsandvisitors/cancerinfo/support/Pages/index.aspx)

If you have more questions or would like to speak with a social worker about your specific concerns, please call the hospital social work office at 614-293-8427 for assistance.