

Cancer Care Information

In 2001, the President's Cancer Panel issued a report based on the testimony of Americans who sought treatment for cancer. The report indicated that barriers to obtaining cancer care existed for people at all socioeconomic levels, concluding:

- No person with cancer should go untreated
- No person with cancer should be bankrupted by the diagnosis
- No person with cancer should spend more time figuring out the healthcare system than fighting the disease

With patient navigation, HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley offers a way of alleviating the confusion and difficulties that can delay cancer treatment.

Our patient navigators are certified by the National Consortium of Breast Centers, which is dedicated to improving the experience, satisfaction and outcomes of breast care patients. Our navigators' participation in this rigorous program reflects their personal and professional commitment to providing the highest-quality care to our patients. For more information about the consortium, please visit breastcare.org.

Spanish-language appointments are available in all areas on an individual basis upon request.



HealthAlliance

Westchester Medical Center Health Network

Debbie Barton

BSN, RN-BC, CMSRN, CBCN, CN-BN
Certified Breast Patient Navigator

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Breast Patient Navigation Program

Thomas A. Dee Cancer Center
111 Mary's Ave., 1st Floor, Kingston, NY 12401
845-334-3099, ext. 313

hahv.org

Breast Patient Navigation Program



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Patient Navigation

Patient navigation is a process by which a caring, trained professional guides you as a patient through and around barriers in the complex cancer care system to help ensure timely diagnosis and treatment. She also serves as a confidential, personal guide through the psychosocial and emotional challenges cancer can bring. The navigator is here to listen to your concerns and understand your needs. She works with women who have abnormal breast findings, are at higher risk for breast cancer or have breast cancer. She also works with caregivers.

You Are Not Alone

Patient navigation helps ensure you receive culturally competent care that is also:

- Confidential
- Respectful
- Compassionate
- Mindful of your safety

Goals

- Save the lives of women diagnosed with breast cancer
- Eliminate barriers to care
- Ensure timely and efficient quality service delivery, from screening through resolution



How the Patient Navigator Can Help

Through one-on-one contact, the patient navigator helps you solve problems and overcome barriers that might keep you from getting the care you need.

A Navigator:

- Guides you through the healthcare system, providing health resources and support systems
- Talks with your healthcare providers and gets answers to your questions
- Advocates on your behalf
- Helps you deal with the day-to-day challenges of living with cancer
- Works with you to learn and get information you need to make treatment decisions and better understand your condition
- Streamlines appointments and paperwork
- Anticipates obstacles and addresses them
- Arranges for tests and other appointments
- Helps you complete insurance paperwork
- Helps you find appropriate sources to pay for your health care needs, if necessary
- Connects you with community resources such as support groups
- Finds out about resources or services that may help you connect to the healthcare you need
- Tracks interventions and outcomes
- Provides emotional support

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Eliminating Barriers to Treatment



Our patient navigation program provides needed resources and support to patients seeking diagnosis and treatment. Our navigators understand your fears and hopes and provide resources and assistance to help you achieve the best care and results possible. We can reduce or eliminate many of the barriers to care, including:

Healthcare barriers: If you experience fragmented services, lack of coordination of available services.

Financial barriers: If you have insufficient insurance or a lack of financial resources, or if you experience overwhelming amounts of paperwork.

Physical barriers: If you live far from services or don't have a car or access to public transit.

Informational/educational barriers: If your primary language is not English; or if for any reason you are unable to obtain, read, understand or use healthcare information to make appropriate health decisions; or if you are unable to get the information you want about cancer care.

Social barriers: If you are unable to keep appointments because of your need for child or elder care or if you fear of side effects of therapy.