

# Care Team Members at **UCLA** Health



## Physician Teams

Your team of doctors is led by an attending physician, who is in charge of your care, along with residents and fellows. These doctors may rotate on and off of your care during your stay, so you may be seen by different doctors throughout your stay. New physicians will introduce themselves as they join the team. These physicians direct your care and treatment in coordination with other providers on your care team. By being treated at an academic medical center, you contribute to the education and training of future physicians.



## Nurse Practitioner Team

The nurse practitioners are advanced licensed health care providers who provide continuity of care in your transition from the operating room, to your inpatient hospital stay, and eventually to home. The inpatient nurse practitioner team will see you during your stay to medically assess your progress in conjunction with your physician team, identify and prevent barriers to your care, order diagnostic tests, prescribe medications, and prepare you for safe discharge. They round daily with the physicians, nursing staff, rehabilitation specialists, and other specialties based on individual need to best coordinate your care. Once home, the outpatient nurse practitioner team will be available to answer post-operative questions and discuss medication/care concerns.



## Nursing Team

Registered nurses provide a critical link between the patient and the healthcare team. In addition to contributing to your care, nurses communicate your needs to your doctors and other care team members as well as inform you about your medications, in-hospital treatment, and post-hospital care. Registered nurses coordinate your care with other healthcare workers such as care partners, to ensure that your comfort and hygiene needs are met.



## Nurse Case Manager

Nurse case managers work with you, your family and your healthcare team to coordinate your hospital stay. They also assist with the planning and coordination of your transition from the hospital to home or to other care facilities: such as acute rehabilitation, long-term acute care, sub-acute rehabilitation, and skilled nursing facilities.



## Respiratory Therapist

Respiratory therapists help with any breathing difficulties. They perform tests and speak with you to determine what support you may need, and if any equipment will help you breathe easier. If you need breathing treatments, the respiratory therapist will teach you how to perform them and how to use any equipment that you may need.



## Speech Therapist

Speech-language pathologists evaluate a person's ability to swallow and communicate. A communication evaluation includes speech production, understanding and use of language, and assessment of thinking skills such as memory and problem solving. Speech pathologists also assess a person's ability to swallow safely. Your speech pathologist will work with you and your family to help understand these types of problems and provide therapy while in the hospital. They will make recommendations for any services you might need upon discharge.

# Care Team Members at **UCLA** Health (cont.)



## **Physical and Occupational Therapist**

Physical therapists will work with you to help regain your strength and mobility. Occupational therapists help regain function in your daily activities such as dressing and grooming. The therapist may develop an individualized treatment plan to help you meet your specific goals and provide recommendations for post-discharge care.



## **Pharmacists**

Pharmacists provide education and counseling for medications that you may receive while you are in the hospital. Pharmacists work with the physician and nursing teams to coordinate care and education so that you are ready when you leave the hospital.



## **Registered Dietitians**

Clinical dietitians work closely with your healthcare team to ensure that you are meeting your individualized nutritional needs. Once your diet is ordered by your physician, the dietitian will review this with you and recommend foods to enhance recovery, educate you on your therapeutic diet, review the need for oral nutritional supplements and monitor the need for texture-modified foods if you encounter swallowing problems. If you are not able to consume adequate nutrition, your dietitian will assess the need for nutrition support to optimize your nutritional status.



## **Social Worker**

Social workers can assist you and your family members with any personal, emotional and/or family problems and difficulties due to your illness or injury. Individual, family and group support for sudden illness, separation from home and job, bereavement, substance abuse, domestic violence and other issues can be arranged, as well as referrals to community resources.



## **Care Partners**

Care partners or certified nursing assistants will assist with tasks such as bathing and oral care, changing linens, and will provide additional support to the nurses.



## **Spiritual Care**

Hospital chaplains are available to meet with you to support your spiritual care needs during your stay. Chaplains can listen to your concerns, share in your faith struggles, assist you and your family members in seeking inner peace and strength, bring you scriptures or holy writings from your specific faith tradition, help you access/receive religious sacraments, assist you in contacting religious leaders from your faith tradition, and/or help with other spiritual needs.



## **EVS Staff**

Environmental Services staff will ensure your room and restroom are always kept clean, safe and sanitary during your hospital stay.