

# Your multidisciplinary medical team

This team of experts will jointly be responsible for your care. The team is comprised of the following members:

- **General Practitioner (GP):** The doctor in your local community who is the gatekeeper to the healthcare system. The GP will most likely be your first port of call before you get referred on to a urologist. You may continue to see the GP while seeing other specialists to ensure that medical conditions other than bladder cancer are appropriately managed.
- **Urologist:** A specialist surgeon who deals with diseases of the kidney, ureter, bladder, prostate, urethra, testicles and penis. The urologist will make a definitive diagnosis and will be responsible for initial treatment and possible long term follow up.
- **Oncologist:** An oncologist is responsible for treating patients with all types of cancer using chemotherapy or immunotherapy.
- **Radiation oncologist:** A radiation oncologist administers doses of radiation to help destroy or damage cancer cells.
- **Oncology nurse:** A nurse that has specialised in caring for and supporting patients with cancer. They may offer education, help administer chemotherapy or be by your side before and after an operation.
- **Stoma nurse:** A nurse who specifically specialises in looking after patients with stomas/ileal conduits or any other forms of urinary diversions. As a patient you will have contact with the stoma nurse just prior to surgery and then probably develop a long term relationship after surgery as they show you how to live with a stoma.
- **Pathologist:** This is a doctor who works in the laboratory and specialises in diagnosing all types of diseases including cancer.
- **Radiologist:** A radiologist is a doctor that has specialised in interpreting all kinds of imaging from ultrasound to CT/CAT Scans to MRI and assisting the diagnosis of diseases including cancer.
- **Psychologist:** A psychologist manages psychological distress and mental health.
- **Dietician:** A dietician is a specialist who is able to develop an appropriate diet plan that is tailored for your particular condition. After a urinary diversion which includes the use of the intestine a patient with bladder cancer may have specific dietary requirements.
- **Physiotherapist:** A specialist who treats disease injury or deformity with various physical methods that include heat, massage and exercise. Physiotherapy is crucial in the period just after surgery and possibly for further rehabilitation before returning home. The earlier you move out the bed the earlier you will be able to go home. A physiotherapist will help with this early mobilisation process as well as selecting exercises to protect your lungs from infections.
- **Palliative care team:** This team may be comprised of doctors and nurses whose aim is to make the lives of patients with advanced illness better. In patients with metastatic muscle invasive bladder cancer this includes pain control and managing localised symptoms.



**BEAT** BLADDER CANCER AUSTRALIA INC.

Bladder Cancer | Education | Awareness & Support | Treatment & Research