

*Circle Of Life: Cancer Education and Wellness*

*for American Indian and Alaska Native Communities*

**Appendix E: Health Professionals Who Provide Cancer Care**

**List of Health Professionals**

Word	Pronunciation	Definition
Anesthesiologist	(an-es- <b>thee</b> -zee- <b>AHL</b> -uh-jist)	a doctor who specializes in giving drugs or other agents (like gasses) that cause a total loss of feeling or relieve pain, especially during surgery. These drugs may put the patient into a deep sleep so that they are not aware of procedures or surgery
Case manager		a member of the cancer care team who coordinates the patient's care throughout diagnosis, treatment, and recovery; often a nurse or cancer nurse specialist. The goal of case managing is that one person is directing or overseeing a patient's care. For example, a case manager may help the patient get through the complexities of the health care system by working with the health insurance company, getting quicker responses to important questions, managing crises, and connecting the patient and family to needed resources.
Chaplain		a member of the clergy who attends to the spiritual needs of the patient and family. Often a chaplain is trained to minister to patients of many denominations, faiths, and beliefs.
Dermatologist	(der-muh- <b>TAHL</b> -uh-jist)	a doctor who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of skin diseases. A dermatological oncologist has specialized training in diagnosing and treating skin cancers.

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Dietitian	( <b>die</b> -uh- <b>TISH</b> -un)	an expert in the area of nutrition and food who has at least a bachelor’s degree and has passed a national board exam. Many RDs specialize in areas like weight management, exercise science, cancer care, or cardiac rehabilitation. See also nutritionist.
discharge coordinator:		often a nurse or social worker who helps make sure that patients leaving the hospital have what they need to continue their recovery at home, or may help a patient find other places to go after leaving the hospital, such as a nursing home or rehab, where they can continue to get the care they need.
Doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO)	( <b>os</b> -tee-uh- <b>PATH</b> -ick)	a doctor with a licensing and educational background much like that of a medical health care provider (MD). They tend to be primary care physicians and are specially trained to use a “whole person” approach to medicine rather than just treating specific symptoms. See also primary care physician.
Dosimetrist	(doe- <b>sim</b> -uh-trist)	a person who calculates and plans the correct radiation dose (the amount, rate, and how the dose is spread out) for cancer treatment or other diseases that require radiation treatment. Some of the factors that determine radiation dose include body size, sex, and age.
Endocrinologist	( <b>en</b> -duh-kruh- <b>NAHL</b> -uh-jist)	a doctor who specializes in diseases related to the glands of the endocrine system, such as the thyroid, pituitary, pancreas, pineal, and adrenal glands

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Enterostomal therapist	( <b>en</b> -ter-o- <b>STO</b> -mal <b>ther</b> -uh-pist)	a registered nurse who is qualified by education in an accredited program in enterostomal therapy to teach people how to care for ostomies (surgically created openings such as a colostomy or urostomy) and other wounds. Also called an ostomy nurse or a wound care nurse.
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**List of Health Professionals**

Word	Pronunciation	Definition
Gastroenterologist	( <b>gas</b> -tro- <b>en</b> -ter- <b>AHL</b> -uh-jist)	a doctor who specializes in diseases of the digestive (gastrointestinal or GI) tract including the esophagus (swallowing tube), stomach, small intestine, colon, rectum, gallbladder, and bile duct
Genetic counselor	(juh- <b>net</b> -ick)	a specially trained health professional who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Helps people decide whether to have genetic testing done</li><li>• Helps people understand the risk of occurrence of a genetic disorder within a family</li><li>• Provides information about the options available depending on the results of genetic testing</li><li>• Helps the patient consider the screening and preventive measures that are best based on the test results</li></ul>
Gynecologic oncologist	( <b>guy</b> -nuh-kuh- <b>LA</b> -jik on- <b>kahl</b> -uh-jist)	a doctor who specializes in cancers of women’s reproductive organs

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Gynecologist	(guy-nuh-KAHL-uh-jist):	a doctor who specializes in women’s health, including their sexual and reproductive function and the diseases of their reproductive organs, except diseases of the breast that require surgery
Hematologist	( <b>he</b> -muh-TAHL-uh-jist):	a doctor who specializes in diseases of the blood and blood-forming tissues

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<b>List of Health Professionals</b>		
<b>Word</b>	<b>Pronunciation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Home health nurse		a nurse who provides care in the patient's home, including giving medicines and certain treatments; teaches patients and families about their care; and checks on the patient to see if further medical attention is needed
Licensed practical nurse (LPN) or licensed vocational nurse (LVN)		a nurse who has completed a year or so of technical health training, and passed a licensing test. This nurse may give medicines, help patients with physical hygiene and care, and perform many other health care-related tasks
Medical oncologist	(on- <b>kahl</b> -uh-jist)	a doctor who specializes in diagnosing and treating cancer with chemotherapy and other drugs. A medical oncologist is different from a surgical oncologist, who mostly treats cancer with surgery.
Neonatologist	( <b>nee</b> -o-nay- <b>TAHL</b> -uh-jist)	a doctor who specializes in the care of newborn babies (until about 6 weeks of age, longer for babies who are born prematurely)
Nephrologist	(neh- <b>frah</b> l-uh-jist)	a doctor who specializes in kidney diseases
Neurosurgeon	( <b>nur</b> -o- <b>SUR</b> -jun)	a doctor who specializes in operations to treat problems involving the brain, spinal cord, or nerves

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Word	Pronunciation	Definition
Nurse practitioner	(nurs prak- <b>tih</b> -shun-er)	a registered nurse with a master's or health care provider degree who has advanced training and clinical experience in a certain area of medical and nursing practice. Licensed and certified nurse practitioners diagnose and manage illness and disease, usually working closely with a health care provider. In most states, they also prescribe medicines.
Nutritionist	(noo- <b>trih</b> -shun-ist)	a term used sometimes interchangeably with dietitian, but educational requirements for nutritionists vary by state. Programs to certify nutritionists now exist, but again, requirements vary. See also dietitian, .
Occupational therapist (OT)	(ok-you-PAY-shun-uhl)	a licensed and specially trained health professional who works with people who have disabilities to help them relearn how to perform daily activities so that they can be as independent as possible. They also work to prevent disability and maintain health. The practice of occupational therapy includes evaluation, treatment, and consultation.
Oncologist	(on- <b>kahl</b> -uh-jist)	a doctor who specializes in diagnosing and treating cancer
Oncology clinical nurse specialist (CNS)	(on- <b>kahl</b> -uh-jee <b>klin</b> -ih-kull nurs <b>spesh</b> -uh-list)	a registered nurse with a master's degree and advanced clinical practice in oncology nursing who specializes in the care of cancer patients. Oncology CNSs have many different roles depending on the setting. They may give direct patient or family care; supervise staff caring for patients and families; do nursing research related to cancer patients; or teach patients, families, and staff about cancer, treatment, and side effects.

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Word	Pronunciation	Definition
Oncology social worker	(on- <b>kahl</b> -uh-jee)	usually a person with a master’s degree in medical social work who is an expert in coordinating and providing help with the social and emotional needs of the cancer patient and family. The oncology social worker may do counseling, help patients and families manage financial problems, work on housing or child care issues (when treatments must be taken at a facility away from home), and help people cope with different types of emotional distress.
Ophthalmologist	( <b>off</b> -thuhl- <b>MA</b> -luh-jist):	a medical doctor who specializes in diagnosing and treating eye diseases
Oral and maxillofacial surgeon	( <b>max</b> -ill-o- <b>FAY</b> -shul)	a surgeon who specializes in surgery of the mouth, jaw, and face
Orthopedic surgeon:	(or-thuh- <b>pee</b> -dik)	a surgeon who specializes in diseases and injuries of the muscles and bones, also called the musculoskeletal system
Otolaryngologist	( <b>o</b> -toe- <b>lair</b> -in- <b>GOL</b> -uh-jist)	a doctor who specializes in diseases and injuries of the ear, nose, and throat. Also called an ENT (which stand for ears, nose, and throat) or a head and neck surgeon.
pain specialists		oncologists, neurologists, anesthesiologists, neurosurgeons, or other health care providers, nurses, or pharmacists who are experts in pain management. In many places there is a team of

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<p>palliative care specialists</p>	<p>(PAL-ee-uh-tiv)</p>	<p>health professionals who are available to address issues of pain control. doctors, nurses, and/or pharmacists who help keep a person comfortable by managing bothersome symptoms, such as pain, nausea, or fatigue. They are not trying to cure the disease, but help the person have the best possible quality of life. They can help at any stage of cancer, from diagnosis to the end of life.</p>
<p><b>palliative care team</b></p>	<p>(PAL-ee-uh-tiv)</p>	<p>typically includes a palliative care doctor who leads the team and works with a nurse, social worker, patient navigator, and maybe a person with a spiritual role such as a chaplain or a priest, to treat symptoms but not necessarily the cause of the symptoms.</p>

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Word	Pronunciation	Definition
Pathologist	(path- <b>all</b> -uh-jist):	a doctor who specializes in diagnosing and classifying diseases by lab tests, such as looking at tissue and cells under a microscope. The pathologist determines whether a tumor contains cancer, and, if it is cancer, the exact cell type and grade.
Patient navigator		the person who guides patients and their families through complex medical systems and helps them work with the rest of the cancer care team to overcome barriers to care that may come up so they can successfully complete their treatment. Navigators can be lay people with special training and experience or health care professionals, like nurses or social workers.
Pediatric oncologist	( <b>pee</b> -dee- <b>AT</b> -trick on- <b>kahl</b> -uh-jist):	a doctor who specializes in caring for children with cancer
Pediatrician	( <b>pee</b> -dee-uh- <b>TRISH</b> -un):	a doctor who specializes in caring for children, including the prevention of illness, primary health care, and the treatment of diseases
Physical therapist (PT)	( <b>fiz</b> -ick-uhl)	a licensed health professional, who has at least a bachelor's degree in physical therapy, who helps examine, test, and treat physically disabled people by using exercises, heat, cold, and other methods to restore or maintain the body's strength, mobility, and function

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Physician assistant (PA)

a certified and licensed medical professional with a master's or doctoral level degree. Physician assistants practice medicine on teams with doctors and other health care professionals, providing a wide range of services. They may specialize in certain diseases or fields of medicine depending on their training and experience.

Plastic and reconstructive surgeon (re-kon-**STRUCK**-tiv)

a surgeon who specializes in altering or restoring appearance or in rebuilding removed or injured body parts. In reconstruction, the surgeon may use tissue from the patient or some special material with the right consistency to hold a shape or form over time.

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Word	Pronunciation	Definition
Primary care physician		the doctor a person would normally see first when a medical symptom or problem comes up. A primary care physician could be a general practitioner, a family practice health care provider, a gynecologist, a pediatrician, or an internal medicine health care provider (an internist).
Psychiatric clinical nurse specialist (CNS)	( <b>sy</b> -key- <b>AT</b> -rick <b>klin</b> -ih-kull nurs <b>spesh</b> -uh-list)	a registered nurse with a master’s degree in psychiatric/mental health nursing who specializes in the mental health of patients. The psychiatric CNS may assess, counsel, or teach patients and/or families. They may also have a role in supervising mental health care or doing research in psychiatric nursing.
Psychiatrist	( <b>sy</b> - <b>ky</b> -uh-trist)	a medical doctor specializing in the causes, treatment, and prevention of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders. Psychiatrists provide counseling therapy and can also prescribe medicines or other treatments.
Psychologist	( <b>sy</b> - <b>kahl</b> -uh-gist)	a health professional who specializes in the study of the structure and function of the mind and related mental processes in humans and animals. A clinical psychologist has a graduate degree in psychology and training in clinical psychology. They may provide testing and counseling services to patients who may have an emotional or mental health problem.

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Pulmonologist	( <b>pull</b> -muh- <b>NAHL</b> -uh-jist)	a doctor who has specialized experience and knowledge in the diagnosis and treatment of lung (pulmonary) conditions and diseases
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**List of Health Professionals**

Word	Pronunciation	Definition
Radiation oncologist	( <b>ray</b> -dee- <b>A</b> -shun on- <b>kahl</b> -uh-jist)	a doctor who specializes in the use of radiation to treat cancer
Radiation therapist	( <b>ray</b> -dee- <b>A</b> -shun <b>ther</b> -uh-pist)	a person with special training to work the equipment that delivers radiation therapy. This expert often helps the patient get into the right position for treatment and then actually gives the treatment.
Radiation therapy nurse		a registered nurse who is an expert in the radiation therapy care of patients. This nurse may teach the patient about treatment before it starts and help manage any treatment side effects.
Radiologic technologist	( <b>ray</b> -dee-uh- <b>LAH</b> -jick teck- <b>nah</b> -luh-jist)	a health professional (not a health care provider) trained to position patients for x-rays, take the images, and then develop and check the images for quality. The films taken by the technologist are then sent to a radiologist to be read.
Radiologist	( <b>ray</b> -dee- <b>AH</b> -luh-jist)	a doctor with special training in diagnosing diseases by interpreting (reading) x-rays and other types of

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imaging studies that make pictures of the inside of the body

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**List of Health Professionals**

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<b>Word</b>	<b>Pronunciation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Registered nurse (RN)		a professional nurse who has completed a college program and passed a national examination. RNs may assess, educate, and treat patients, families, or even communities. They may work in almost any health specialty, and can obtain further education to qualify for advanced practice such as oncology nurse specialist, nurse practitioner, and others.
respiratory therapist	(RES-per-uh-TOR-ee THAIR-uh-pist)	a professional who works with people who have breathing problems. This can include breathing treatments and managing patients on ventilators (breathing machines). A CRTT or certified respiratory therapy technician may also examine the patient, collect information about lung function, and set up and maintain equipment, such as ventilators.
Sex therapist		a mental health professional with special training in diagnosing and treating sexual disorders and problems with sexual functioning. These problems may include erectile dysfunction (ED, often called impotence), orgasm problems, premature ejaculation, and lack of sexual desire. Sex therapy may include education, special exercises, and work on improved communication between partners.
Social worker		a health professional with special training in dealing with social, emotional, and environmental problems that may come with illness or disability. A social

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worker may help people find community resources, and provide counseling and guidance to help with issues such as insurance coverage, nursing home placement, and emotional distress.

Speech  
therapist

a person specially trained to work with people who have problems with their speech, such as a loss of the ability to speak or problems speaking clearly. Speech therapists treat patients with exercises and other techniques to restore speech or other communication skills. They also make sure that patients can eat and drink safely if they have swallowing problems.

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**List of Healthcare Professionals**

Word	Pronunciation	Definition
Surgeon		a doctor who performs operations
Surgical oncologist	(on- <b>kahl</b> -uh-jist)	a doctor who specializes in using surgery to treat cancer
Thoracic surgeon	(thuh- <b>ras</b> -ick)	a surgeon who operates on organs in the chest, including the lungs, ribs, the sternum (breast bone), the diaphragm (the muscle that helps breathing), and other associated muscles
Urologist	(yur- <b>ahl</b> -uh-jist)	a doctor who specializes in treating problems of the urinary tract in men and women, and of the genital organs in men