

Colon Cancer Care Before and After Surgery

Information for Our Patients & Their Families

Our Promise To You

The Mass General Hospital Colon Cancer Care Team will make sure you get the highest quality care before, during and after your colon cancer surgery. Your health and safety is our main concern.

You and your family are an important part of your care. By working with us, your treatment plan will be stronger and better. Ask questions and let us know what is important to you.



What You Can Do

1. Bring your family or a friend to your visits. They can listen, take notes, and ask questions.
2. Tell your treatment team about:
 - Illnesses and treatment you have had
 - Medicines you take, including over the counter and prescription medicines
 - Feelings or concerns, anything unexpected, or any new symptoms
 - Instructions that you do not remember or do not understand
3. Ask your surgery team about your diagnosis, treatment, and discharge instructions. Make sure you understand what they tell you.
4. Have a family member or friend with you during your surgery, hospital stay, and after-care. This will help with your recovery.
5. Work with your surgery team to make a plan for discharge and your care at home.

What Your Surgery Team Will Do

1. Use all of our skill, expertise, and resources to give you the best possible care
2. Talk with you honestly and respect your needs, wishes, and beliefs
3. Want you and your family to ask questions so that you can take part in your care
4. Explain your diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up care in ways you can understand, including:
 - When the biopsy or other test results will be ready
 - How to take care of yourself after surgery
 - Any side effects you may have
 - Next steps if you need more treatment with a medical oncologist. This is a doctor who specializes in chemotherapy.
5. Communicate with other members of your health care team
6. Make sure you understand and agree with your care plan

Please turn over to learn more →

Colon Cancer Care Before and After Surgery

Information for Our Patients & Their Families

After-Surgery Care

By being our partner, you will know what to do to help yourself recover from surgery. Your treatment team will continue to care for you and work with you on your after-surgery treatment plan.

What You Can Do

1. Follow your discharge instructions for a better recovery.
2. Tell your treatment team before you stop or begin any new medicines. A change in medicines might affect your care.
3. Follow the diet your surgeon gives you. This will help prevent or take care of any side effects from surgery.
4. Contact your surgeon or treatment team if you have diarrhea, vomiting, or belly pain.
5. Keep your appointments for your follow-up clinic visits. Let your surgery team know as soon as possible if there are any changes that need to be made.
6. Keep your appointment if you are asked to see a medical oncologist. This appointment is important in planning your future care.

What Your Surgery Team Will Do

1. Keep giving you the best possible care by being there to help with any questions or concerns.
2. Communicate with other members of your health care team.
3. Tell you how to contact the members of your treatment team and who you should call with questions or concerns.
4. Tell you when to expect to hear about your biopsy and test results. This is usually 7 to 10 days after surgery. These will be discussed with you during an office visit.
5. Work with your medical oncologist during your surgery care if more evaluation and treatment is needed.
6. Make sure your medical oncology appointment has been scheduled and this information has been given to you.

