

## TIPS FROM YOUR GI CARE TEAM

- 1. Write down your questions before you come. Bring a tape recorder or a friend who can take notes during visits.** Cancer is a difficult diagnosis. Conversations with your care providers can be overwhelming, and we want to address all your important concerns.
- 2. It is best to get prescription refills during your clinic visit** so you do not run out of your medications. Some medications that reduce pain or anxiety, help you sleep, or boost your energy, are *controlled substances*. By law, we can only give you a 5-day supply when we call your pharmacy. To get one month's supply, you must bring an actual prescription to the pharmacy.
- 3. Help us keep your medical records up-to-date.** Tell your nurse/care provider if you have received medical services (tests, procedures, or new medications) somewhere other than Roswell Park such as a specialist's office.
- 4. The medical records department will accept FMLA, disability, or other forms you need filled out.** They are located on the ground floor and can send your records to other doctors if you are seeking another opinion.
- 5. Please check in no more than 30 minutes before your scheduled visit,** even if you have a scan and a doctor's visit on the same day. This will reduce your time spent waiting in an exam room while we are trying to get the scan results. We do our best to keep the time in between your scan and your doctor's appointment (to discuss the results) as short as possible.
- 6. If you have concerns or are having symptoms, please call the GI Center at 716-845-4005.** Your call will be answered by a triage nurse. Please explain the reason for your call and answer their questions. Please have your medical record number, if possible.
- 7. If it is determined you need to be seen, you may be asked to come to the GI Center or to the ATC (Assessment & Treatment Center).** The ATC supports patients with immediate but non-life threatening symptoms. (You need to be referred to the ATC by your Roswell Park provider or our physician-on-call.) Roswell Park does not have an Emergency Room (ER). If you are advised to go to the ER, please bring your green card and notify us that you are at the hospital. We will coordinate transfer if Roswell is the best place to care for your problem.
- 8. Please take a moment to look through these helpful resources and do not hesitate to ask us for anything** we can do to make your journey easier.

Thank you.

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