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Wondering how to get started with telehealth? Check out the information below to better understand your options for virtual doctor’s visits. What is telehealth, what types of conditions can be treated with telehealth, and what to expect during a virtual doctor’s visit. Whether you are looking for health care related to COVID-19 or something else, find out more about how to prepare for the virtual visit. Cancer is a complex disease, and for many patients, the cancer journey is just as complex, often requiring multiple doctor visits, treatments, medications, follow-ups and other logistical details to navigate. At Cancer Treatment Centers of America® (CTCA), we know you have a lot to keep track of—from appointments to test results, bills to prescriptions. That’s why we offer multiple ways to help you manage your schedules and treatment plans, striving to make it easy for you to keep the people you need. Before, during and after treatment, scheduling an appointment is often just a phone call away. And with the myCTCA portal, getting information and managing schedules is at your fingertips. This is all part of the Mother Standard® of care, our commitment to treating our patients like we’d want our own families to be treated. How to contact us Patient portal: The myCTCA patient portal is a web-based tool designed to allow you to access your medical records, lab results, prescriptions and more. With the myCTCA portal, you also can read doctor bios, get information about your cancer type, manage appointments and pay bills. Learn more about the myCTCA portal Scheduling: Keeping to treatment and consultation schedules is one of the most important aspects of the cancer journey. At CTCA, we try to make it as easy as possible for you to manage your appointments. That’s why we work with you to tailor your schedules to your needs and treatment goals. Learn more about scheduling Hospital information: At CTCA, we know how important it is for you to reach the right people with questions or concerns about treatments or services. Many of our services and departments can be reached directly, and, if not, the operators at our hospitals’ main switchboards are trained to connect you and your families and caregivers to the right number whenever possible. Get key contact information for our hospitals FDA’s priority is your health and safety. While everyone’s daily lives are impacted during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the impact may be even greater on older adults and people of any age who have chronic medical conditions. If you are not feeling well or have any questions about your health, please contact your health care provider (e.g., doctor, nurse). Click the button below for resources to help address questions patients may have about FDA-regulated medical products (drugs, biologics, devices) and COVID-19. COVID-19 Resources for Patients Engage with FDA! Our mission is to improve public health. We can’t do it without you: the patients, caregivers, and advocates. We want to hear directly from you and learn about your experiences, preferences and needs as they relate to FDA-regulated medical products. Learn More Ask a question or request a meeting with FDA. Report a safety concern or negative event with an FDA-regulated medical product using FDA’s information and event reporting program, MedWatch. Share your knowledge and expertise with FDA to make your voice heard regarding pending regulatory policies. Connect with FDA’s Patient Affairs Staff directly. We help patients become more informed and involved in FDA regulatory decisions related to medical products. Learn about the drug and medical device approval process. This process follows well-established paths to make sure that medical products are safe and effective when they reach the public. Get information about FDA-approved brand name and generic prescription and over-the-counter human drugs and biological therapeutic products. Find information about what the device is, how it works, when it can be used, and when it should not be used. Review information gathered from press releases and other public notices about recalls, withdrawals, and safety alerts of FDA-regulated products. Learn about expanded access, including information about the expanded access process, what FDA considers, and what costs may be involved. Learn about treatment options for when a patient does not respond to current approved treatments. Learn more about clinical trials and find a trial that might be right for you. Watch short videos developed to inform patients and other stakeholders about FDA patient initiatives and patient engagement efforts. Watch short videos where FDA Patient Representatives share what it means to serve in their unique role. Patients, caregivers, advocates and community representatives can share their experiences, perspectives, and needs related to their health or a disease by talking directly with FDA staff. Learn more about FDA’s Patient Affairs Staff. We help patients become more informed and involved in FDA regulatory decisions related to medical products. Learn more about why and how FDA advisory committees weigh the available scientific evidence and provide scientific advice on the safety, effectiveness, and appropriate use of FDA regulated products. Learn more about rare diseases and how FDA supports the development of treatments for rare diseases. The Johns Hopkins Division of Hematology offers a multidisciplinary team of specialists dedicated to the diagnosis, evaluation and treatment of blood diseases and disorders. New PatientsIn order for you to be matched with an expert in the field of your diagnosis, it is necessary to have your records available to our physician reviewers prior to scheduling an appointment. Therefore, we ask that you have your referral and medical records faxed to 410-367-2372. It is important to include the following: a referral from your current physicianclinical notes relevant to your diagnosisimaging reports including CT, MRI, ultrasound, etc.two sets of abnormal lab resultsother test results as applicable to your diagnosis i.e. genetic testing, bone marrow biopsies report and slidescopy of your insurance cardsThis “information gathering” is an important component of your visit. It allows the providers to examine and review relevant information before your scheduled visit. This preparation greatly speeds the development of an effective plan for medical care. If time permits, we will send you a questionnaire to fill out before your appointment.Once the review process has been completed (7-10 working days), you will be contacted by one of our patient access specialists to assist with scheduling your appointment. You may also call the scheduling office at 410-955-3142 at any time to inquire as to the status of your record review.For international patients, please contact Johns Hopkins International for initial and return patient appointments.Unfortunately, our physicians cannot speak with or give medical advice to patients that are not currently under our care.On the day of your scheduled appointmentIt is important to:Arrive at least 30 minutes before your appointment to allow time for registrationBring your insurance cardBring a photo I.D.Bring your co-paymentBring a copy of name and address of all persons/doctors who would like to get copies of your visit materialsBring any updated medical records including clinic notes, lab results, imaging studies, etc.Returning PatientsPlease call 410-955-3142 to schedule return appointments or log into MyChart and schedule online. Sign up for MyChart.Please arrive at least 15 minutes before your appointmentBring a copy of your insurance card(s) and a photo IDRescheduling Appointments and CancellationsWe schedule our appointments weeks in advance and are usually unable to reschedule on short notice. If you must reschedule, call us at 410-955-3142 as soon as possible. This will allow us to schedule another patient who is waiting to be seen. We look forward to participating in your care.Additional information and directions may be found in the following links. Johns Hopkins and our top ranked specialties — neurology and neurosurgery, oncology, head and neck surgery, gastrointestinal surgery, urology, and transplant — use the latest research to treat complex conditions. Our Areas of Excellence Medically Reviewed by Carolin Schneider, MD Photo Courtesy: Andrew Bret Wallis/The Image Bank/Getty Images According to Alzheimer’s Disease International, there were an estimated 50 million people with dementia worldwide in 2019, but, by 2050, that number is expected to increase dramatically to 135 million people. In 2018, the United States spent approximately \$280 billion to care for people with dementia, which Michael S. Rafii, MD, Ph.D., director of the Memory Disorders Clinic at the University of California, San Diego, says is “greater than the cost of any other disease faced by our society.” All of this to say, dementia, and, by extension, Alzheimer’s disease, impacts so many folks — not just those with the disease, but their families and caretakers as well. The best way to prepare? Understand the early signs of dementia and how to support patients suffering from it. Dementia is the collective name for progressive and degenerative brain syndromes that affect memory, thinking, behavior, language, and emotions. However, it adds up to more than bouts of forgetfulness or repeatedly losing one’s car keys. That is, dementia interferes with a person’s daily life and functions. At least half of all dementia cases are brought on by Alzheimer’s disease, and, while the leading risk factor for dementia is age, the disease has many causes. For some, the blood vessels in one’s brain may play a role, while, for others, it stems from toxins or genetics. It’s extremely important to know what symptoms to look out for. Early dementia symptoms include, but are not limited to, the following:Repeating the same story or question over and overGetting lost in familiar placesDelusions or aggressionProblems with language or recognizing objectsMemory or concentration problemsDifficulty following directionsGetting disoriented about time, people, or placesNeglecting personal safety, hygiene, and/or nutrition Dementia can be divided into two broad categories: cortical dementias and subcortical dementias. Cases of cortical dementias affect the outer layer of one’s brain and are often characterized by memory loss and the inability to recall words. On the other hand, subcortical dementias affect the parts of the brain beneath the cortex and can cause slowing of thought as well as a reduced ability to think clearly or initiate activities. The most common causes of dementia include, but are not limited to, the following: Degenerative Neurological Diseases: Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, Huntington’s disease, and some types of multiple sclerosis.Vascular Disorders: Blood flow problems that cause strokes or arteriosclerosis in the brain.Mixed Dementias: A combination of a vascular disorder and Alzheimer’s, for instance. Next Steps for Patients & Their Families or CaregiversDepending on the cause of dementia, some cases may be treatable. For example, dehydration, depression, and B12 deficiency are all causes of dementia symptoms that can be rectified. Unfortunately, most forms of dementia are not preventable and will worsen over time. However, researchers are working to develop drugs to combat this growing issue and slow the degenerative process.Eager to try something? Consider joining a clinical trial. Research shows that Alzheimer’s patients have beta-amyloid deposits in their brains, even before symptoms like memory loss begin. These sticky, protein-rich deposits are associated with brain atrophy and cognitive decline. Clinical trials aimed at preventing the growth of these deposits are underway, and many new ones are expected to start. Aside from lending support and watching for warning signs of dementia, family members, friends, and caregivers can help patients in other ways. Try to encourage the following: Healthy Lifestyle Choices: Make healthy lifestyle choices as a family, like exercising and eating better, in order to combat the onslaught of dementia. Mental Exercise: Keep your brain active with reading; perform regular exercise that keeps blood flowing to the brain; and avoid smoking. Independence: Experts recommend people with dementia stay independent for as long as possible. “Changes in the Quality of Life of People with Dementia Living in Care Homes” via Europe PMC Funders Group, U.S. National Library of Medicine“Shared decision-making for people living with dementia in extended care settings: a systematic review” via BMJ Open, U.S. National Library of Medicine“Entangled in uncertainty: The experience of living with dementia from the perspective of family caregivers” via Plos One, U.S. National Library of Medicine“Advancing Research on Care Needs and Supportive Approaches for Persons With Dementia: Recommendations and Rationale” via HHS Public Access, U.S. National Library of Medicine“The Disproportionate Impact Of Dementia On Family And Unpaid Caregiving To Older Adults” via HHS Public Access, U.S. National Library of Medicine

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