

## The Advanced Practice Provider in Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation

### Background

Advance Practice Providers (APPs) include both certified Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants.

### The Role of the Advanced Practice Provider in Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation

The Advanced Practice Provider (APP) is an integral member of the hematopoietic cell transplant (HCT) team and they work both collaboratively and under the supervision of the attending medical staff. APPs provide medical care to HCT patients in a variety of clinical and research based scenarios and under the specific guidelines established per respective institutions, ASBMT, NMDP and current best practice in medicine. APPs are often hired by academic centers for better continuity of care. They can be utilized in inpatient and/or outpatient settings and typically perform at the level of a staff clinician. APPs are expected to improve the efficiency, safety and quality of patient care at stem cell transplant centers. Individual tasks may include but are not limited to:

1. Evaluate potential candidates for HCT, understanding the malignant and non-malignant indications for stem cell transplantation as well as eligibility criteria.
2. Evaluate potential donors for HCT, by understanding the key components for donor selection.
3. Understand the different conditioning regimens and how each contributes to the immunological and cellular recovery following stem cell transplant.
4. Utilize evidence-based medical guidelines to develop differential diagnoses and treatment plans.
5. Evaluate and treat post transplant complications including acute and chronic GVHD, infections, organ damage and relapse, as well as understanding the management of patients who are receiving chronic immunosuppression.

6. Communicate effectively with patients and their families regarding the patient's medical status and translate medical jargon to basic terminology.
  7. Counsel patients and their families regarding complex medical problems, ethical issues and end-of-life care as necessary.
  8. Communicate effectively with supervising physicians, other APPs, referring physicians, consultants and members of the transplant team regarding the clinical status of stem cell transplant patients.
  9. Advance the science of transplant through participation in research when able, while staying abreast of changes to evidence-based medicine as it pertains to HCT.
  10. Remain up to date with the current science of HCT, including understanding controversies and public health and economic ramifications of the specialty.
  11. Recognize the ethical considerations in the conduct of stem cell transplantation.
  12. Participate in efforts to maintain public awareness of the specialty and need for donor registration.
  13. Educate and mentor APPs interested in pursuing a career in stem cell transplantation.
  14. Serve as a resource to other health care professionals training and/or rotating through the stem cell transplant unit.
  15. Perform medically indicated procedures including bone marrow biopsy and aspirate, bone marrow harvest, lumbar puncture, skin biopsy and others dependent upon necessity, training and proficiency.
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