

*“The Alphabet Soup” of your Care Team
What do all the initials stand for??*

- **Medical doctor (MD):** a physician who has a doctor of medicine degree and is appropriately licensed to practice medicine. This typically means the physician has gone through four years of college, four years of medical school and three years of work experience in a hospital setting.
- **Doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO):** The medical training for an MD and DO is virtually the same, except for the extra 300-500 hours in study of hands-on manual medicine (osteopathic manipulative medicine) a DO is required to have. DO physicians are licensed in all 50 states and have rights and responsibilities that are identical to MD physicians and surgeons.
- **F.A.C.S. (Fellow of the American College of Surgeons)** after a surgeon’s name are an indication to the patient that the surgeon has passes a thorough evaluation of both professional competence and ethical fitness. Fellows are board-certified surgeons.
- **FACP:** Fellow of the American College of Physicians.
- **Board Certified-** Physician are certified by the ABMS Member Board If your doctor is board certified, you can be confident that he or she meets nationally recognized standards for education, knowledge, experience and skills to provide high quality care in a specific medical specialty. Board certification goes above and beyond basic medical licensure.
- **DC (Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine)-** Chiropractic is a form of alternative medicine that focuses on diagnosis and treatment of mechanical disorders of the musculoskeletal system especially the spine, under the belief that these disorders affect general health via the nervous system. It is the largest alternative medical profession and although chiropractors have many similarities to primary care providers that are more similar to a medical specialty like dentistry or podiatry.
- **Nurse practitioner (NP):** a registered nurse who has a graduate degree in nursing, which gives him or her a license to direct the care of a patient, prescribe medication and assist doctors in procedures. NPs can also specialize in certain areas of the health care field.

- **Physician assistant (PA):** a person who has master's degree that has been trained at a medical school and usually does not have a nursing license. Like an NP, a PA can direct the care of a patient, prescribe medication and assist doctors in procedures.
- **Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA):** have training in the field of anesthesia. Anesthesia is the process of putting a patient into a painless sleep, and keeping the patient's body working so surgeries or special tests can be done.
- **Registered nurse (RN):** a nurse who took a national test to become a caregiver. He or she may have a two-year degree or a four-year degree; the instruction and test are the same. RNs keep records, administer medications, consult with other healthcare providers and educate patients and their families. Active listening, critical thinking, social perceptiveness and decision making are all very important for nurses.
- **Bachelors of nursing (BSN):** a registered nurse who has a four-year degree. The difference between an RN and BSN is that a BSN typically has more education in leadership roles. Many nurse managers need at least a BSN to be qualified for their position.
- **Clinical Nurse Specialist (OCN):** OCN is an oncology nurse that has had special training in oncology. Certification is a voluntary process and ensures that a nurse has proper qualifications and knowledge of a specialty area and has kept up-to-date in his or her education.
- **LPN:** The LPN may be the first medical professional to work with a patient. Recording the patient's history is one of the first duties.
- **Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA),** helps patients or clients with healthcare needs under the supervision of a Registered Nurse (RN) or a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). Also known as a Nursing Assistant (NA) a Patient Care Assistant (PCA)
- **Medical Assistant** is an allied health professional that supports the work of physicians and other health professionals, usually in a clinic setting. Medical assistants can become certified through an accredited program usually offered through a junior or community college.
- **R.Ph.:** Registered pharmacist

- **Pharm.D:** Doctor of pharmacy
- **LMSW:** is a master's degree in the field of social work. It is a professional degree with specializations in different aspects of professional social work practice
- **RT-Radiologic technologists** are the health care professionals who perform diagnostic imaging procedures, such as X-ray examinations, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans and computed tomography (CT) scans
- **RT (T) ARRT (Radiation Therapist):** They implement plans of treatment from the oncology radiologist.
- **Medical technologist** (also known as a 'med tech', medical laboratory scientist, clinical laboratory scientist, lab technologist or any variation thereof) is an allied health professional that analyzes and tests body fluids and tissues.
- **Medical Lab Tech:** Usually work under the supervision of a med tech performing more basic tests and laboratory procedures
- **OTR/L: Registered Occupational Therapist.** Occupational therapists help people learn or re-learn how to do everyday activities, including dressing and eating.
- **PT-Physical Therapists** are licensed professionals who hold a graduate degree. A PT can teach patients how to prevent or manage their conditions so that they will achieve long term health benefits. They will evaluate each patient then develop a plan using treatment techniques to improve their ability to move, reduce pain, restore function and prevent disabilities.
- **RRT: Registered Respiratory Therapist:** Respiratory therapists work most often in intensive care and operating rooms, but are also commonly found in outpatient clinics and home-health environments. RRT treat patients with problems related to breathing. They are patient care manager who not only determine the need for respiratory care services but also administer care directly to patients.

- **RD: “Registered Dietitian.”** Dietitians are specialists in healthy eating and nutrition. Their work is focused on preventing and treating illness through dietary modification. They work with patients to assess their weight, height and eating habits in order to develop a healthy nutrition plan.
- **EMT-P Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic:** denote a health care provider of emergency medical services. EMTs are clinicians, trained to respond quickly to emergency situations regarding medical issues, traumatic injuries and accident scenes.
- **CCM –Certified Case Manager:** Specifically addresses Case Management in the hospital setting. RN case managers are registered nurses (RNs) who develop, implement, and evaluate individualized patient care plans. They act as social workers, advocate patient welfare, and serve as a liaison between patients, their families, and healthcare providers