

## **BMT Network Of Hope**

Welcome to the Blood and Marrow Transplant Program at Northside Hospital. For all transplant patients, the journey through the BMT process is difficult emotionally and/or physically. However, your strength and determination will help you through this challenging period and help you achieve the goal of becoming a transplant survivor. It is our hope that your future is filled with many quality moments and joyous occasions.

With that in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to explain our BMT Network of Hope Program. This Network joins previous transplant patients (now transplant "survivors") with current or future BMT patients. No one can really understand what a transplant patient goes through except another transplant patient. Although all transplant experiences are unique, there is common bond that exists among all of our BMT patients. The BMT Network of Hope program allows current or future patients (per their request) speak with someone who has already gone through the BMT process. Patients are matched as closely as possible on a variety of factors, such as gender, disease, age, and type of transplant.

If you are interested in speaking with a member of our BMT Network of Hope, please notify your BMT Coordinator so that arrangements can be made. The frequency/intensity of the conversations depends on your needs as they arise and the availability of the Network of Hope volunteer. The members of the BMT Network of Hope are all volunteers and have agreed to speak with future or current BMT patients by phone and/or in person. Initiation of contact between you and a former patient is only done upon your request.

After you have been discharged from our program post-transplant, we will encourage you to join the BMT Network of Hope. Speaking with patients is always voluntary and you may limit your involvement according to your level of comfort. You would always be contacted by a member of the BMT Team to assess your interest and availability prior to being connected with a patient.

Please do not feel obligated to utilize this program, as the decisions you make now need to be based on what you feel is best for you. However, if you would like to be a part of this program you must notify your BMT Coordinator. There is also the opportunity for your caregiver to become involved if they would like to speak with caregivers who have already been through the transplant experience. Remember, this opportunity is voluntary. In addition, if you choose not to utilize the BMT Network of Hope now, you can always access this program in the future.

If you have any questions about the BMT Network of Hope, please feel free to contact me at 404-255-1930.

Best regards,

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BMT Clinical Health Psychologist