

# PARTNERS IN HEALING

Families partnering with healthcare teams to care for patients and prepare them to transition home



We are happy to invite you to participate in the “Partners in Healing” program with us. As a family member or friend of our patient, we invite you to become a partner with us in the care of your loved one. We have several purposes for asking this of you:

1. We hope to help you learn how to do specific care tasks so you will feel more comfortable with the transition when you take your loved one home.
2. We wish to have you as our partner in care so current needs and potential discharge needs of your loved one can be met more efficiently.
3. We also want to partner with you to give and receive important information about your loved one.

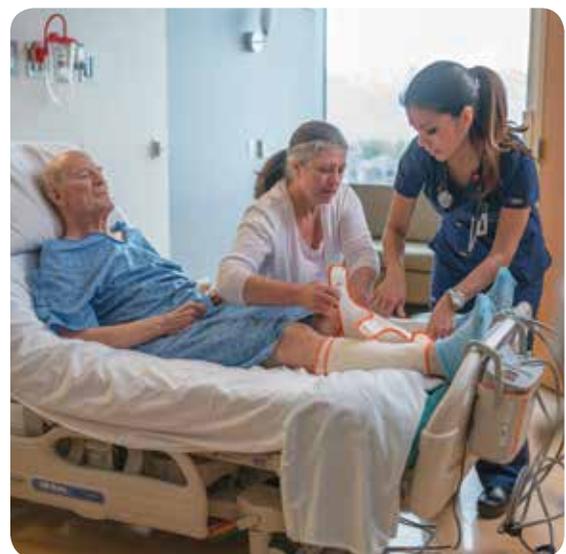
This program is completely voluntary. Please know that at any time, you may choose to take a break from the program. We will only assume you are participating if you are wearing the “Partners in Healing” badge.

Thank you for your willingness, and we hope you will find you can become an effective partner in healing with us.

## THROUGH PARTNERS IN HEALING, YOU CAN SHARE IN THE CARE RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUR LOVED ONE

Here’s how it works:

- You will receive a badge to wear to show that you’re part of the program. When we see the pin, we’ll know we can include you in your loved one’s care.
- We will teach you how to do specific caregiving tasks. This will help you be more prepared to help your loved one when they go home.
- You can give us important information about your loved one and their condition. For example, we may ask you to keep track of what foods they ate, how many times they used the restroom, or whether they took a walk in the hallway.
- We will show you how to make sure your loved one is safe and well cared for. This might include making sure everyone washes their hands before entering the room, or helping to prevent falls.



## WHAT YOU'LL BE DOING

A caregiver will teach you how to help the patient with things like:

- Why and how to follow a special diet
- How to safely assist the patient to a chair or walk in the hall
- How to safely reposition the patient in bed
- Where to find warm blankets
- How to help improve the function of the patient's lungs by using a deep breathing device (Incentive Spirometer)
- How to assess and care for a wound
- How to help prevent blood clots by use of compression boots (Sequential Compression Device) and TED hose
- How to care for a colostomy
- How to use braces and other medical devices
- How to identify medication side effects
- How to use respiratory medications

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## WHAT TO EXPECT FROM OUR CARE TEAM

- Your care team will continue to provide extraordinary care to your loved one. You can leave for the day or take a break from the program whenever you choose.
- During your stay, your care team will check on your loved one frequently.
- The care team will check on your loved one's progress and will answer all your questions.
- Your care team will begin teaching and preparing you and your loved one for life at home as soon as the patient is admitted.

## THOSE WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN PARTNERS IN HEALING HAVE TOLD US

- They felt more comfortable reporting important information about their loved one's condition to caregivers.
- They learned how to quickly help meet their loved one's needs while in the hospital.
- The transition to care at home was much easier.
- Patients and families had a better overall experience.

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If you have questions about the *Partners in Healing* program or if you'd like to participate, please ask your nurse or send an email to [partnersinhealing@imail.org](mailto:partnersinhealing@imail.org).



## ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS

### ***Will you still care for my loved one?***

Yes. The care of your loved one is our first priority and we will continue to provide quality care. But sometimes the best way for someone to heal is to be cared for by the ones who love them the most. Plus this program will help you gain the skills you need to help the patient transition to home. Participation in Partners in Healing is completely voluntary.

### ***Where is my nurse and aid going to be?***

Your care team is here for everything you need. This program doesn't take away from what we are going to do for you; it simply includes you in the care process.

### ***Will I need to stay the whole time?***

No. Partners can participate in the program as often or as little as they choose. If you no longer want to participate, simply take off your Partners in Healing pin. When you are ready to leave for the day, please notify a member of the care team.

### ***What happens if I forget to write down a task I completed?***

It's important that you keep track of all the tasks you and your care team have decided you will complete. If you forget to record a task, please tell the charge nurse about the task that was missed.