

Soundbite Transcript - Navigating the Cancer Journey

Bonnie Hogle, cancer survivor

“Lisa could be there for me. She came and talked to me or talked to me on the phone quite frequently and answered any and all questions. She was able to coordinate so many appointments and things for me during that time so that I didn’t have the stress of all that on top of trying to figure out what was happening to me.”

Peggy Malone, oncology nurse navigator

“An oncology nurse navigator is a nurse with a good knowledge base about all cancer types. That nurse reaches out to a patient when they are first diagnosed and helps them through the odyssey that is health care, especially in the beginning when a patient is first diagnosed. They don’t know about stages, they don’t know what other testing needs to be done, treatments and just what to expect generally for the future for their treatments.”

Peggy Malone, oncology nurse navigator

“I feel it’s fulfilling to help somebody when they’re scared. I always tell my patients the most fearful part is the unknown. I tell them once you’ve had your first treatment, once you really understand what we do here and once you understand what is happening to you, you’ll feel a lot better.”

Lisa Bruno, OSF HealthCare oncology nurse navigator

“Helping the patient with the mental aspect of the disease can be tricky sometimes. We have to figure out where the patient is coming from. I use my own personal story as a lead in to help them deal with their own diagnosis. I myself was diagnosed with breast cancer and I am an open book when it comes to my patients because I tell them “I have been there.” I know how traumatic this can be and I know how hard it is to tell your children.”

Lisa Bruno, OSF HealthCare oncology nurse navigator

“The most gratifying part of my job is seeing a patient get through their treatment and come out on the other side a survivor.”