

# Choosing a Blood and Marrow Transplant Program

## The best outcome depends on the right decision

You have options when it comes to selecting your partner in treatment for cancerous and noncancerous blood disorders. The process can be overwhelming, but the decision is crucial to achieving the best possible outcome. The blood and marrow transplant (BMT) team at The University of Kansas Cancer Center, one of only 71 National Cancer Institute-designated cancer centers nationwide, offers this checklist to help you research your choices.

<b>Experience and Services</b>	<b>The University of Kansas Cancer Center</b>	<b>Center name:</b>	<b>Center name:</b>
When did the program perform its first stem cell transplant?	1977		
How many transplants has the program completed since its inception?	3,600+		
How many transplants does the program perform annually?	325+		
How does the size of the program compare to others nearby?	We offer the largest program in Kansas and one of the largest in the nation. We have the largest team of specialists and have performed the largest number of transplants.		
Does the program offer dedicated nurse navigators to enhance the patient experience?	Yes. We offer dedicated nurse navigators to help patients and families through what can be a complex process. The BMT-specialized nurse navigator provides efficiency, convenience and peace of mind.		
Do any other specialized professionals support your transplant patients?	Absolutely. Our entire team specializes in care for cancerous and noncancerous blood disorders. Some uncommon, dedicated roles include our dedicated oncology psychologist and dedicated pre- and posttransplant nurse coordinators, as well as specially trained social workers, financial coordinators, dietitians, physical therapists, palliative care specialists, fertility specialists and nurse practitioners.		



**Experience  
and Services**

**The University of Kansas  
Cancer Center**

**Center name:**

**Center name:**

<p>What conditions does the program treat with stem cell transplant?</p>	<p>We treat a wide variety of cancerous and noncancerous blood disorders. Some of the most common include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aplastic anemia</li> <li>• Bone marrow failure syndromes</li> <li>• Ewing sarcoma</li> <li>• Germ cell tumors (testicular)</li> <li>• Leukemia</li> <li>• Lymphoma</li> <li>• Multiple myeloma and plasma cell disorders</li> <li>• Renal cell carcinoma</li> <li>• Severe combined immune deficiency</li> <li>• Sickle cell disease</li> <li>• Waldenstrom macroglobulinemia</li> </ul>		
<p>What national recognition has the program earned?</p>	<p>Our cancer center earned the National Cancer Institute's designation for achieving the highest standards in cancer care and research.</p> <p>U.S. News &amp; World Report ranked our cancer center among the nation's top 50 providers of cancer care.</p> <p>We also earned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Midwest region's first and only BMT program accreditation from the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy</li> <li>• The National Marrow Donor Program®/Be The Match®'s BMT Innovation Award</li> <li>• The Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses PRISM Award for exceptional nursing, leadership and outcomes in patient units for cancer care.</li> </ul>		
<p>How many transplant physicians are on staff?</p>	<p>We have 9 blood and marrow transplant specialists on staff.</p>		
<p>Do the program's nurses have specialized experience in transplant care?</p>	<p>Yes. We offer a complete, multidisciplinary, oncology-trained team dedicated entirely to the needs of BMT and cellular therapy patients.</p>		

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<p>What types of stem cell transplants does the program perform?</p>	<p>We perform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autologous (your own cells)</li> <li>• Allogeneic (donor cells)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Syngeneic (identical twins)</li> <li>◦ Cord blood</li> <li>◦ Nonmyeloablative/reduced intensity</li> <li>◦ Haploidentical (half-matched)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<p>Does the program offer support for finding matched donors?</p>	<p>Yes. We find matches through the National Marrow Donor Program. We have been a member since 1995.</p>		
<p>Does the program offer clinical trials for patients with cancerous and noncancerous blood disorders?</p>	<p>Yes. We provide nationally recognized, leading-edge treatments through clinical trials initiated by our own physicians. Trials include groundbreaking advances in immunotherapy and CAR T-cell therapy. You can read more at <a href="http://kucancercenter.org/clinicaltrials">kucancercenter.org/clinicaltrials</a>.</p>		
<p>Does the program offer staff to answer your questions before and after treatment?</p>	<p>Yes. Our specially trained BMT and cellular therapy staff assist patients through the complete journey, including specially designed education classes for patients and their caregivers.</p> <p>In addition, we provide a symptom management clinic to support you before and after transplant and at every step in between.</p>		
<p>Will the same team treat you before, during and after transplant?</p>	<p>Yes. Consistency and continuity are very important to us and to our patients.</p>		
<p>Will the program team collaborate with your local and/or primary care providers?</p>	<p>Of course. We are happy to team with primary care providers and local oncologists to together give patients the best possible treatment close to home.</p>		
<p>Does the program offer specialized survivorship care to support your long-term follow-up needs?</p>	<p>Yes. A team of physicians, nurses and financial counselors is dedicated to BMT patients' long-term follow-up care needs. Through our survivorship clinic, we are here for you to provide care not only for blood disorders, but for the effects of treatment over time.</p>		

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<p>Does the program offer education materials, classes and support groups?</p>	<p>Yes. Our dedicated educators teach patient and caregiver education classes. We offer the Brandmeyer Patient Resource Center for education, staffed by an oncology nurse to help identify specific materials.</p> <p>Turning Point: The Center for Hope and Healing offers education and support programs at no charge to patients and families facing chronic illness.</p> <p>We also provide our staff with ongoing educational and credentialing opportunities to ensure they are consistently qualified to provide patients with gold-standard care.</p>		
<p>Will my insurance cover transplant at this center?</p>	<p>For many patients, the answer is yes.</p> <p>Each patient has a dedicated financial counselor who specializes in assisting patients in determining their coverage for transplant.</p> <p>We have been Medicare-approved since 1977.</p>		
<p>Does the program provide information on housing for out-of-town patients?</p>	<p>We offer a travel consultant and concierge service to provide information on travel arrangements and lodging.</p> <p>One lodging option is the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge, free lodging for adult cancer patients receiving treatment out of state.</p>		
<p>Can I speak with other patients who have had their transplants here?</p>	<p>We offer a formalized mentorship program to connect current and former patients and caregivers. Many former patients and caregivers volunteer to share information and provide support.</p>		



**For more information**

Patients: **913-588-1227** | 844-323-1227

Physicians: **913-588-5862** | 877-588-5862

[kucancercenter.org/bmt](http://kucancercenter.org/bmt)