TREATMENT TEAM

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN (PCP) OR PROVIDER (PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT OR NURSE PRACTITIONER)
• First point of contact for symptoms
• May not think of ovarian cancer
• “Gatekeeper” to any specialist, such as gynecology oncology
• See Patient Checklist for list of PCP/ObGyn action item suggestions
• Must refer to gynecology oncology
• Patient to remain with PCP during and after cancer treatment

OBSTETRICIAN-GYNECOLOGIST (OBGYN)
• Specializes in women’s health
• Can be first point of contact for symptoms
• Should think of ovarian cancer
• “Gatekeeper” to any specialist, such as gynecology oncology
• See Patient Checklist for list of PCP/ObGyn action item suggestions
• Must refer to gynecology oncology
• Patient to remain with Ob/Gyn during and after cancer treatment

GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGIST (GYO)
• “Gold standard” physician for care of patients with gynecologic cancers, including ovarian
• See Patient Checklist for list of GYO action item suggestions

RADIATION ONCOLOGIST
• Physician with specialization in the planning, delivery and care of patients receiving radiation or other forms of energy to kill cancer

PATHOLOGIST
• Physician who specializes in diagnosis of disease (cancer) based on the examination of organs or tissues.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (PA) OR NURSE PRACTITIONER (NP)
• A licensed professional with a distinct scope of practice, working with a physician
• Prescriptive capabilities vary by role and by State

FELLOW
• A physician who has completed a training program after medical school and wishes to develop a specialization in cancer; 2-4 years in length, dependent on the program
• Work under the direction of a senior physician
• Supervise junior physicians

RESIDENT
• A graduate from a medical school who has entered a training program; 1-5 years in length, dependent on the program and specialty
• Works under the supervision of more senior residents and senior physicians

NURSE (OCN, RN)
• Registered nurse who has received a certification in cancer, working with a physician
• Re-certified every ten years, similar to medical oncology

PHARMACIST (PHARMD, BCOP)
• Professional who has received a doctorate in pharmacy and is board certified
• Received 2-4 years of additional training in cancer-specific pharmacy
• Re-certified every ten years, similar to medical oncology

SOCIAL WORKER (OSW-C)
• Master’s prepared professional who has worked specifically in cancer, palliative care and/or end of life