

ADULT SUPPORT GROUPS/PROGRAMS

Division of Social Work

February 2024

Many of our adult patient/family groups and programs listed below are held virtually via Zoom or telephone. Patients/families who receive care at any of our DFCI locations across the network are welcome to reach out about any of our groups and programs. For more information or to connect with a clinical social worker at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, call: 617-632-3301 or visit www.dfci.org/supportgroups.

If you are not a Dana-Farber patient and are interested in attending a Dana-Farber support group, please call 617-632-3301.

Please note: Dates below are only listed through February 2024. Another calendar will be circulated next month. Additional meetings will be held in upcoming months.

Support Service	Membership	Facilitation	Time & dates	Contact
Bereavement Support Group	6-week group programs and drop-in groups are available for adults whose loved ones were patients of DFCI, or any Dana-Farber affiliated regional campus clinics.	Sue Morris Psy.D, Director of Bereavement Services	Call for details.	Please call for details: 617-632-2490
Behavioral Therapy for Cancer-related Pain	A 6-week group that teaches behavioral skills to patients with chronic cancer pain.	Michelle Jacobo, PhD Karen Mott, NP Miryam Yusuf, PhD	This group is accepting referrals	Contact Michelle Jacobo to register for future groups: mjacob@partners.org
Brain Tumor Support Group	Bringing patients and caregivers together to share experiences, feelings and challenges associated with brain tumors.	Debra LaFrankie, RN, OCN Ben Peirce, LICSW	1:30 pm – 3:00 pm February 26	Contact Ben Peirce to register: 617-632-4236 Benjamin_Peirce@dfci.harvard.edu

Support Service	Membership	Facilitation	Time & dates	Contact
Caregiver Support Group	A drop-in support group for spouses, partners, or family members of cancer patients.	Tricia Hughes, LICSW Allison Dibiaso, LICSW	There will be no day group this month. Evening Group 6:00 pm -7:00 pm February 20	Contact Tricia Hughes to register: Tricia_Hughes@dfci.harvard.edu
Circle of Life (Círculo de Vida): Support Group in Spanish for Women with Cancer	Support for Spanish-speaking patients with all cancer diagnoses. Women only.	Rachel Allende, LICSW	10:00 am – 11:30 am February 13 February 27	Contact Rachel Allende to register: 617-582-7339 Rachel_Allende@dfci.harvard.edu
Committed Couples Embracing Life Together: A strengths-based support group	This group focuses on couples growing and supporting each other and is inclusive of all cancer types and all intimate relationships.	Courtney Bitz, LICSW	5:30 pm – 7:00 pm February 21	Contact Liz Bonasoro to register: Elizabeth_Bonasoro@dfci.harvard.edu
Gynecologic Cancer Support Group	An open support group for patients who have been diagnosed with gynecologic cancer.	Christina Palis, LICSW	5:00 pm – 6:30 pm February 12	Contact Christina Palis to register: 617-582-7284 Christina_Palis@dfci.harvard.edu

Support Service	Membership	Facilitation	Time & dates	Contact
Inflammatory Breast Cancer Support Group	The IBC support group has a psychoeducational focus; each session will feature a DFCI clinician who will speak about IBC in a supportive setting with open discussion.	Jess Mosey, LCSW	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm February 21	Contact Mariesa Powell to register: 617-632-2311
Kidney Cancer Support Group	A support group for Kidney cancer patients in active treatment or those who have recently completed treatment.	Larisa Patacchiola, LCSW	4:00 pm – 5:00 pm February 8	Contact Larisa Patacchiola to register: 617-582-7576 Larisa_Patacchiola@ dfci.harvard.edu
LGBTQ+ Support Group: Prism	A drop-in support group for LGBTQ+ identifying adults (18+) followed for hematology or oncology at DFCI and/or other area hospitals.	Adam Lang, LCSW Laura Goodman, LCSW	5:30 pm – 6:30 pm February 21	Contact Laura Goodman to register: 617-485-5922 Laura_Goodman@ dfci.harvard.edu
Lymphoma/CLL Support Group	A group for patients diagnosed with lymphoma or CLL. This is a chance to meet others, share experiences, comfort, and support.	Christina Palis, LCSW	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm February 28	Contact Christina Palis to register: 617-582-7284 Christina_Palis@ dfci.harvard.edu
Melanoma Support Group	Support group for patients in active treatment for melanoma.	Allison Dibiaso, LCSW	6:00 pm – 7:00 pm February 28	Contact Allison Dibiaso to register: 617-632-5163 AllisonM_Dibiaso@ dfci.harvard.edu

Support Service	Membership	Facilitation	Time & dates	Contact
Men over 50 Prostate Cancer Support Group	This is a patient-only support group for men over 50 in treatment for prostate cancer.	Bruce MacDonald, LCSW	5:30 pm – 7:00 pm February 13 February 27	Email Bruce MacDonald to register: Bruce_MacDonald@dfci.harvard.edu
Metastatic Gastrointestinal Cancer Support Group	A place to connect with others going through similar experiences, share stories, & support each other in challenging times.	Holly Barron, LCSW	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm February 20	Contact Holly Barron to register: 617-632-4353 HollyE_Barron@dfci.harvard.edu
Multiple Myeloma Education and Discussion Group	A multiple myeloma related presentation followed by separate patient and caregiver discussion groups.	Adam Lang, LCSW Christina Palis, LCSW	5:30 pm - 8:00 pm February 14	Contact Adam Lang to register: 617-582-9496 Adamj_Lang@dfci.harvard.edu
Neuroendocrine & Carcinoid Seminar/Support Group Series	2-part session offering an informational session followed by a support group for patients and families.	Jane Bausch, LCSW	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm February 20	Contact Jane Bausch to register: 617-632-3309 Jane_Bausch@dfci.harvard.edu
OABC Coffee Hour: Older Women with Early-Stage Breast Cancer Support Group	A monthly, virtual, drop-in social support and educational group for older women with early-stage breast cancer to share experiences, resources, support, and friendship. Assistance with Zoom is available.	Jess Mosey, LCSW	10:00 am – 11:30 am February 14 2nd Wednesday of every month	Contact Sydney Simo to register: 617-632-4300 Sydney_Simo@dfci.harvard.edu

Support Service	Membership	Facilitation	Time & dates	Contact
One Year Post-Bone Marrow Transplant Support Group	A monthly support and education group for DFCI patients who have completed their one-year recovery from bone marrow transplant.	Kristy Katsetos, LICSW	5:00 pm - 6:30 pm February 14	Contact Kristy Katsetos to register: 617-582-8604 KristyA_Katsetos@dfci.harvard.edu
Prostate Cancer Support Group	The Prostate Health Education Network focuses on the needs of Black men diagnosed with prostate cancer.	Thomas Farrington Jacques Carter, MD	Can join via Zoom or Smith bldg. 308/309 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm February 15	Tula Mahl Phone number: 617-582-9333 Tula_mahl@dfci.harvard.edu
Sarcoma Support Group	This monthly group for Sarcoma patients provides an opportunity for support and connection through sharing feelings, experiences, and challenges with the goal of decreasing isolation and building resiliency.	Bobbi Allison, LICSW	4:30 pm – 6:00 pm February 26	Contact Bobbi Allison to register: 617-632-3682 Roberta_Allison@dfci.harvard.edu
Stage IV Breast Cancer Support Groups	An opportunity for those with stage IV (metastatic) breast cancer to share emotional support.	Leora Lowenthal, LICSW Liz Farrell, LICSW Fremonta Meyer, MD	3:00 pm – 4:30 pm Thursday, February 8 Facilitated by Leora Lowenthal & Fremonta Meyer, MD ~ 1:00 pm -2:30 pm Tuesday, February 20 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Tuesday, February 27 Facilitated by Liz Farrell & Fremonta Meyer, MD	Contact Leora Lowenthal to register for Thursday group: 617-485-5958 Leora_Lowenthal@dfci.harvard.edu ~ Contact Liz Farrell to register for Tuesday groups: 617-632-5606 ElizabethE_Farrell@dfci.harvard.edu

Support Service	Membership	Facilitation	Time & dates	Contact
Thriving Beyond Breast Cancer	The transition from active treatment to maintenance and monitoring can be challenging physically, emotionally, and mentally. Over the course of six 90-minute sessions, our group will discuss a different topic relevant to moving forward after breast cancer.	Jess Mosey, LICSW	Please call or email for details of the next group and to be added to the waitlist.	Contact Jess Mosey to register: 857-215-2407 Jessica_Mosey@dfci.harvard.edu
TOP Talks (Thoracic Oncology Program)	Presentations from professionals in the DFCI community followed by an opportunity for thoracic oncology patients to connect and learn from each other.	Sydney Appelbaum, LICSW	2:15 pm – 3:45 pm February 8	Contact Sydney Appelbaum to register: 617-582-8772 Sydney_Appelbaum@dfci.harvard.edu
YOCCC (Young Onset Colorectal Cancer Center) Caregiver Support Group	A support group for adult caregivers of patients with young onset colorectal cancer (diagnosed under age 50).	Kalen Fletcher, LICSW	5:00 pm – 6:00 pm February 7	Contact Kalen Fletcher to register: 617-632-5605 Kalen_Fletcher@dfci.harvard.edu
YOCCC Stage IV Lunch Break Group	Connect with others treated for stage IV colorectal cancer (diagnosed under age 50). This will be an informal space where you can talk with people who get it.	Kalen Fletcher, LICSW	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm February 8	Contact Kalen Fletcher to register: 617-632-5605 Kalen_Fletcher@dfci.harvard.edu

Support Service	Membership	Facilitation	Time & dates	Contact
YOCCC Survivorship and Early-stage Group	Connect with others treated for early stage (I, II and III) colorectal cancer and those who have recently completed treatment (diagnosed under age 50). This will be an informal space to talk with people who get it.	Laura Goodman, LICSW	5:00 pm – 6:00 pm February 14	Contact Laura Goodman to register: 617-485-5922 Laura_Goodman@DFCI.harvard.edu
Young Adult Breast Cancer Support Group	This group is facilitated in the spring and fall. This 6-week group gives young patients and survivors an opportunity to discuss relevant topics. This group is best suited for those who were diagnosed with early-stage (0-III) breast cancer before age 45 and are within 12 months of the diagnosis.	Megan DelSesto, LICSW	Please reach out if interested in the spring 2024 cohort.	For more details or to register, please email youngandstrong@partners.org
Young Adult Support Group	This group is open to young adult patients in their 20's and 30's who are in treatment or recently out of treatment. The group meets only when 5 or more people commit to attend. A reminder email is sent prior to the group meeting date.	Kalen Fletcher, LICSW	5:30 pm – 7:00 pm February 21	Email yap@dfci.harvard.edu to register.
Young Adult Thoracic Group	A space for patients 45 and younger to process their experience of living with lung cancer and meet others.	Sydney Appelbaum, LICSW	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm February 22	Contact Sydney Appelbaum to register: 617-582-8772 Sydney_Appelbaum@dfci.harvard.edu

Support Service	Membership	Facilitation	Time & dates	Contact
Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia Peer Support Forum	Open to all WM patients and families in New England regardless of where treatment is received.	Eileen Sullivan Christopher Patterson	1:00 pm -3:00 pm February 4	Please email Christopher Patterson to register: Christopher_patterson @dfci.harvard.edu or Eileen Sullivan: ebsullivan27@ gmail.com



**DF/BWCC at Milford
Regional Medical Center**
20 Prospect Street, Milford, MA
01757

All Programs are FREE

PROGRAM	DATE & TIME	DESCRIPTION
Coping with Cancer Support Group	<p>Second Tuesday of every month 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 13 	<p>A support group for men and women living with cancer. Discuss ways to cope with fear and anxiety and share hope and meaning with others facing similar challenges. Call Mellissa Rearick, LICSW, to register and/or for more information at 774-448-3783. Family members are welcome.</p>
Breast Cancer Support Group	<p>Second Wednesday of every month 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 14 	<p>An opportunity for women who would like to meet with others to explore ways to cope with their diagnosis and its effect on their lives through education and support. Facilitated by Mellissa Rearick, LICSW, and MaryBeth Proulx, RN. Call Mellissa Rearick to register at 774-448-3783.</p>



Dana-Farber
Cancer Institute



Dana-Farber/New Hampshire Oncology-Hematology

**DF/New Hampshire
Oncology-Hematology**
40 Buttrick Rd., Londonderry, NH
All Programs are FREE

PROGRAM	DATE & TIME	DESCRIPTION
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Londonderry will not be holding any support groups during February 2024.

In clinical affiliation with South Shore Hospital

**DF/BWCC at South Shore
Hospital, Weymouth, MA**
101 Columbian St., South Weymouth,
MA 02190

All programs are free.
Free parking available in adjacent garage.

PROGRAM	DATE & TIME	DESCRIPTION
Prostate Support Group	<p>Second Wednesday of every month</p> <p>6:30 pm – 8:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 14 	<p>This is an opportunity for men with prostate cancer to share experiences, information, and resources.</p> <p>To register, email Michael Gutierrez, LICSW, 781-624-8328 or Mgutierrez@southshorehealth.org</p> <p>Patients can join via zoom or can attend in person in the 1st floor conference room at 101 Columbian Street, South Weymouth.</p>



Dana-Farber
Cancer Institute

at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center

**DFCI at St. Elizabeth's Medical
Center**

736 Cambridge Street/CCP5

Brighton, MA 02135-2907

All programs are free. Call 617-789-2662

PROGRAM	DATE & TIME	DESCRIPTION
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DFCI at St. Elizabeth's will not be holding any support groups during February 2024.



PROGRAM	DATE & TIME	DESCRIPTION
Coping with Cancer Support Group	Second Monday of every month 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm • February 12	<p>Patients in active treatment and up to 6 months post treatment. Caregivers welcome.</p> <p>Facilitated by Erin Solomon LICSW, ErinC.Solomon@DFCI.HARVARD.EDU & Lenka Phelps LICSW, LenkaM.Phelps@DFCI.HARVARD.EDU</p> <p>Please register by calling (978) 620-2020; ask to be connected to social work.</p> <p>This is an in-person group located at 5 Branch St, Methuen, Quiet Room on the 1st floor (next to cafeteria).</p>

DF/BWCC – Foxborough
22 Patriot Place, 2nd floor
Foxborough, MA
All programs are free.

PROGRAM	DATE & TIME	DESCRIPTION
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Foxborough will not be holding any support groups during February 2024.



ADDITIONAL ADULT PATIENT/FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Family Connections Program: *For Parents with Cancer*

Provides supportive resources to adult patients who are parents, addressing their needs as parents and those of their young, school age, and/or teenaged children. Age-appropriate information is available through various materials, including:

- Parent information binder for adult patients/adults in the family (digital version available in English and Spanish)
- Age-based packs for children/teens of patients
- Grief information

For more information, please call 617-632-3301 (Social Work main office).

Visit: www.dfci.org/familyconnections.

One-to-One: *Connecting with Someone Who's Been There*

One-to-One is a volunteer support network that offers matches via telephone for current patients, partners, and caregivers who have experienced the complex issues surrounding high-risk cancer, diagnosis and treatment with current patients, partners, and family members. For more information, call 617-632-4020 or visit: www.dfci.org/onetoone.

SoulMates

For individuals facing a breast cancer diagnosis, connecting to someone with a similar experience can be a great source of comfort. Our SoulMates program matches breast cancer patients at Dana-Farber with volunteers who have been through a similar journey. SoulMates participants can benefit from the insight of a peer mentor who is trained in topics such as listening, problem solving, and confidentiality. These volunteers offer emotional support, practical coping tips, and more. They guide patients to Dana-Farber programs and community resources. Most importantly, they help relieve fears and concerns because they understand what it's like to face cancer. This program is currently open to women of all ages with breast cancer who are receiving their treatment at Dana-Farber. Volunteers must be out of active treatment for at least two years. For more information, call Anna Lunsford at 857-215-5042.