

Care guides can help you manage your health in the months and years after blood and marrow transplant

Care guides can help patients and caregivers understand long-term side effects of blood and marrow transplant (BMT), according to a new study.

Although BMT can cure blood cancers and diseases, it also may have side effects for years afterward. And patients' primary care doctors may be less familiar than transplant doctors with these effects.

In this study, researchers sent Be The Match care guides to more than 600 patients and caregivers, and asked if the guides were helpful. The guides were available as 8-page printed brochures, online, and as mobile apps.

More than 90% of patients and caregivers strongly agreed or agreed that the care guides helped them understand recommended tests at check-up appointments. And 85% preferred printed guides rather than an online version or mobile app.

What's in the guides?

After Transplant Guidelines for Patients are available free of charge through Be The Match in both English and Spanish for 6-month and annual check-ups.

The care guides list usual wellness checks and other reminders related to BMT, including:

- After BMT, you may need all your vaccinations repeated.
- Depending on the medications you took to prepare for BMT, you may need bone density tests.
- Graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) is a common side effect of some types of transplant that can affect eyes, skin, and other organs. It's important to be on the lookout for signs and symptoms. If GVHD is caught early, you may have more treatment options, and those treatments may work better.
- Information and resources around emotional health, quality of life after transplant, relationships, and finances.

Keep in mind

Everyone is different, so ask your doctors what is best for you. Also ask your transplant doctor to share your record with your primary care doctor.



Learn more about

- [After Transplant Guidelines for Patients](#) at BeTheMatch.org
- More [study summaries](#) at CIBMTR.org

About this research summary

This information is provided on behalf of the Consumer Advocacy Committee of the CIBMTR[®] (Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research[®]).

Source

Preussler JM, Payton TJ, Moore HK, et al. [Application and evaluation of survivorship care guides for hematopoietic cell transplantation recipients](#). *Transplantation and Cellular Therapy*. 2021 Mar 1; 27(3):266.e1-266.e7. Epub 2020 Dec 16. doi:10.1016/j.jtct.2020.12.007.

