

# PRECISION MEDICINE PATHWAY:

Precision medicine is a rapidly growing area of cancer care that may help guide a more individualized treatment plan for you. This roadmap is intended to help patients with cancer learn more about precision medicine, what to expect from it, and how it may help your care team recommend the best treatment for you.



## PATIENT PRECISION MEDICINE ROADMAP

**Your medical oncologist recommended a tissue and/or liquid biopsy<sup>1</sup>**

### Questions for Your Healthcare Team:

- i. What is the difference between tissue and liquid biopsy?
- ii. Why do I need to get a biopsy?
- iii. What kind of information will you get from the biopsy?
- iv. How will my test results contribute to my diagnosis?
- v. How long will it take to receive the results of the tests, and what will happen next?
- vi. Is there anything specific I need to do before or after the biopsy, such as dietary restrictions or medication adjustments?
- vii. Will insurance cover my tests?
- viii. Who do I contact with questions?
- ix. Waiting for test results makes me feel stressed and anxious. Where can I get help with this?
- x. Do I need to wait for my test results to start treatment?
- xi. If I previously had a tumor biopsy, do I need to get another biopsy?

2

**Your tissue will be collected by a surgical oncologist<sup>1</sup>**

### Questions for Your Healthcare Team:

- i. What should I expect during the biopsy procedure?
- ii. What do I need to do to prepare for the biopsy procedure?



1

3

**A pathologist will examine the collected tissue or blood samples to identify abnormalities or specific tumor markers that may help guide your treatment plan<sup>2</sup>**



4

**Your medical oncologist will order germline and/or biomarker (somatic) testing**

### Questions for Your Healthcare Team:



#### Germline Testing

Examines your DNA to find genetic changes passed down to you<sup>1</sup>

- Why do I need genetic testing?
- How might my test results affect my family?
- How is germline testing performed, and what kind of sample will be collected for testing (eg, blood, saliva, tissue)?
- Why is germline testing important for my condition, and how can it inform my treatment plan?

#### Biomarker Testing

Examines your tissue or blood to find genetic changes in cancer cells<sup>1</sup>

- Why do I need to have biomarker testing?
- How is biomarker testing performed, and what type of sample is needed (eg, tissue biopsy, blood)?
- How can biomarker testing help determine the most appropriate therapy for my specific cancer?

5

**You have received your germline/biomarker test results****Patient Considerations:**

- i. What do these results mean for:
  1. My diagnosis?
  2. My treatment plan?
  3. My life expectancy?
  4. My family?
- ii. Will my family members need testing based on my results? If so, which tests?
- iii. Can genetic and/or biomarker test results change over time?



6

**You and your care team will determine the appropriate treatment plan for you<sup>1</sup>**

*Based on your diagnosis, germline, and/or biomarker test results, targeted therapy may be appropriate for you*

**Patient Considerations:**

- i. According to my test results, what are my treatment options?
- ii. Can you explain why my biomarker test results led to these treatment options?
- iii. Are there any clinical trials that should be considered based on my test results?



7

**You will continue to receive care and your care team will monitor your disease through regular follow-up appointments**

*Members of your care team may include oncologists, nurses, nurse navigators, genetic counselors, financial navigators, social workers, etc<sup>3</sup>*

**Patient Considerations:**

- i. Will I need repeat biopsy and/or testing in the future?
- ii. How often will I need to visit my healthcare provider's office?
- iii. If my biomarker status changes, will there be another available treatment for me?



For more information and patient resources, scan the QR code



The endorsement mark certifies that the information presented in educational seminars, publications, or other resources is reliable and credible.

**References:**

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2. NCCN Advanced-Stage Prostate Cancer. Accessed February 15, 2024. [www.nccn.org/patients/guidelines/content/PDF/prostate-advanced-patient.pdf](http://www.nccn.org/patients/guidelines/content/PDF/prostate-advanced-patient.pdf)
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