

Tip Sheet:

Short-Term Places to Stay During Treatment

Having cancer can be stressful and affect many aspects of your life. In addition to medical decisions and worries, you have practical matters to think about, such as having a safe and affordable place to stay near Dana-Farber.

At Dana-Farber, our staff members can help address your questions and concerns so you can focus more fully on your cancer care. Call 617-632-3301 to speak with a Dana-Farber resource specialist.

Places to Stay: Short-term

Dana-Farber's **Shapiro Center for Patients and Families** offers information on local hotels, inns, and other short-term lodging. Stop by the first floor of the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care to speak with a member of the Concierge Services team or call the center at 617-632-3750. Visit www.dana-farber.org/placestostay for a printable list of places to stay and helpful tips for reservations. The Shapiro Center is open weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Hotel discounts

- When contacting places to stay on your own, ask about medical discounts and mention that you are a Dana-Farber patient. Keep in mind that prices and medical rates can change. In some cases, you may need a physician's signature to qualify.
- Dana-Farber has contracts with a few local hotels to provide a limited number of rooms at reduced rates for patients receiving their treatment or follow-up care. These rates are based on income. To learn whether you are eligible for this program or others that provide discounts for short-term lodging, call 617-632-3301 to speak with a Dana-Farber resource specialist.

Hospitality Homes is an organization of volunteer hosts who open their homes to patients, and families and caregivers of patients, in active treatment. Patients must be accompanied by another adult guest. Most homes are located near public transportation for easy access to Dana-Farber. There is a suggested donation of \$25 a night, or whatever you can afford to give. This organization is not directly affiliated with Dana-Farber, and you can apply directly on your own. For more, visit www.hosp.org and click on the "need housing?" tab at the top.

The **AstraZeneca Hope Lodge Center ("Hope Lodge")** is a program of the American Cancer Society that provides safe and supportive places where cancer patients and their caregivers can stay, for free, when traveling distances from home with frequent medical appointments for treatment. The Hope Lodge is for adult cancer patients 18 or older with one caregiver who need to be receiving outpatient treatments at least 3 days per week. Application with provider signature required. You will need a referral from Dana-Farber; call 617-632-3301 to speak with a resource specialist.

Please note: there often is a 1-2 month wait.

The Hope Lodge is located at 125 South Huntington Ave., about a mile from Dana-Farber in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood of Boston; 617-396-5511.

Urgent need for shelter

Please speak with your care team about whether a shelter is a medically safe option for you. Emergency shelters may not be safe for people who are receiving cancer care. Call 617-632-3301 to speak with a resource specialist about a list of local shelters.

Shelters for homeless patients

- **Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP)** offers short-term medical services for homeless people with serious health issues. You will need oncology care team support for applying. Barbara McInnis House is a 104-bed medical respite unit located at 780 Albany Street, Boston. Visit www.bhchp.org and search for “medical respite care,” or call BHCHP at 857-654-1000.
- **Boston Public Health Commission** maintains a list of emergency shelters in the area. Visit www.bphc.org and search for “Emergency Shelter Commission.” The list of shelters can be found by clicking on “Shelters” on the right. Or you may call 617-534-5395.
- The **2-1-1 program** is a free and confidential helpline that connects people across the U.S. with health and human services they need, including shelter. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This program is run by United Way Worldwide. Call 2-1-1 or visit www.211.org to speak with a 2-1-1 community resource specialist.

Permanent housing

Like many American cities, Boston has a shortage of affordable housing, and the waiting list for subsidized (reduced-rent) housing units is often extremely long.

Unfortunately, we cannot help our patients find long-term options for moderate or low-cost housing. However, we can refer you to the appropriate local agency for assistance, depending on your location and family situation; please call us at 617-632-3301.