



Allina Health

**ABBOTT
NORTHWESTERN
HOSPITAL**

Ventricular Assist Device Team

The **VAD Coordinator** will assist with the evaluation process and all device-related education. Along with the physicians, they will keep you informed about the results of the tests and procedures. If you are accepted for VAD therapy, the coordinator will provide you and your caregiver(s) education before and after your surgery. The VAD Coordinator will also be an important part of your outpatient care. The VAD Coordinator has extensive experience and will lead the efforts to improving your quality of life with the VAD, but will expect you to actively participate in your care. Not following recommended treatments could negatively impact your survival. A VAD coordinator is available 24 hours a day for any questions, concerns, or emergencies.

The **VAD Cardiologists** will oversee your care. These doctors are part of the Advanced Heart Failure/VAD/Transplant Team at Abbott Northwestern and members of the Minneapolis Heart Institute. The doctors rotate between inpatient and outpatient (clinic), so you may see different team members at each visit. All of our team members have special training in VAD Therapy.

The **Heart Failure Nurse Practitioners** will assist the doctors with your care. They too rotate between inpatient and outpatient (clinic), so you may see different team members at each visit.

The **VAD/Transplant Surgeon** is the doctor who will perform the operation in addition to taking care of any of your VAD related surgical needs after surgery. You will meet your VAD surgeon during your evaluation.

The **VAD Social Worker** will help you with the many social, emotional, and financial concerns that living with a VAD can bring. The VAD social worker can help you prepare for some of the life-style changes that are part of living with a VAD. The social worker will talk with you and your caregiver(s) about any specific needs you may have as well as provide you with resources that have been helpful to previous VAD patients. You will meet your VAD social worker during the evaluation process.

The **Chaplain** will be available as a support person for you and your caregiver(s). You will meet the chaplain during the evaluation process.

The **VAD Pharmacist** is a doctor of pharmacy, who is a member of the team to make sure you are on the correct medications and doses, helps avoid drug interactions, makes sure your medications are working effectively and safely and will provide you will medication education.

The **Palliative Care Team** offers care that aims to relieve suffering and improve quality of life for people with life-limiting illness and their families. Before your surgery, a member of the Palliative Care Team will meet with you and your family. During this discussion, they will ask you to define your quality of life and review your medical choices if after surgery, this quality did not improve. While we cannot anticipate the potential complications after your surgery, discussing your health care goals before surgery helps you to stay in control and will help guide your care. The Palliative Care Team follows you and your family and will be available if further needs arise.