

The Role of a Gerson Practitioner

A Gerson practitioner's role is to guide people on the Gerson Therapy in an out-patient office setting or long distance through video consulting. For those people who are unable to attend one of the licensed Gerson clinics, this provides them with the ability to do the therapy starting from home with the expert guidance of a certified Gerson practitioner.

The Gerson practitioner provides the very valuable service of the initial work-up followed by long-term case management. In most cancer cases, as well as serious chronic disease, it can take at least 2-3 years of continuous application of the therapy for successful results.

It should be kept in mind that the Gerson practitioner may be one of several team members providing education and guidance to the client, who in some cases may be integrating conventional medical/oncological and or other complementary treatments with the Gerson Therapy.

The Gerson practitioner works in partnership with the client and encourages and empowers them to undertake the appropriate research to aid them in their decision making process regarding their treatment approach.

Description of a Gerson Practitioner's Service

The Gerson practitioner:

- Reviews the clients medical records including lab reports, imaging studies and diagnostic work up
- Takes a full medical history
- Performs or reviews recent physical exam findings
- Develops initial Gerson Therapy protocol
- Ensures that the client understands proper food and juice preparation, coffee enema technique and home set-up procedures. Ideally, a practitioner will have the help of a certified Home Set-up Trainer (HST) to assist with the instruction of these practical aspects to carrying out the therapy.
- Provide monthly follow-up consultations to review client's status including blood work, imaging studies and patient self-reports. This provides the basis for any adjustments to the protocol. The practitioner needs to be available between consultations to answer questions and provide support for any difficulties that arise. It is crucial that the practitioner has the medical/clinical background to understand when it is appropriate to refer for further diagnostic testing or to address an emergency situation.

Considerations

The structure of service provided for a Gerson patient is quite different and more time consuming than the model for allopathic patient visits. Extra time is needed for the initial consultation and instruction in the various aspects of the therapy, as well as for ongoing follow-up consultations. Many practitioners will continue with their regular practice and Gerson Therapy will be a specialty in addition to this.

The majority of people who want to undertake the therapy have advanced cancer, are on prescription medications and often have multiple health conditions. A Gerson practitioner must be skilled in understanding pathophysiology and the interpretation of blood work and other diagnostic tests in relation to the client's condition and expected response to the therapy. Proper adjustments and fine tuning of the protocol depend on the practitioner's ability to assess the client's medical status as well as the ability to distinguish between a healing and or detox reaction versus progression of disease or crisis situation. The Gerson practitioner must also be knowledgeable of the standard conventional medical and oncological approaches so that if the client's condition warrants, he/she can explain the various options including advantages and disadvantages of a Gerson stand-alone versus a complementary approach. These are the reasons we have developed our criteria of medical qualifications for entry into the Gerson Therapy Training Program.

If you are seriously considering the practitioner training program, it is important to keep in mind that although instruction will be given on how to conduct web-based distance video consulting, it will be your responsibility to determine if the licensing for your discipline within the state or country where you reside, allows you to legally guide patients who you do not see physically in your office and whether your malpractice insurance will cover you for these services. Distance consulting is optional and you will have the ability to provide in-office consulting as well.

In summary, the work of a Gerson practitioner requires an interest and understanding of the unique principles of the Gerson Therapy as well as astute medical, clinical skills for proper case management of seriously ill people.