

Supportive Care and Survivorship Clinic (SCSC)

The UAB Supportive Care and Survivorship clinic serves as the base location for providing in-person or virtual palliative and supportive care assessments. The Clinic began in 1998 as an outpatient consultation clinic primarily for cancer patients, which was originally co-located in the specialty oncology clinic and now occupies freestanding space on the 2nd floor of the Kirklin Clinic outpatient facility. Annually, the SCSC serves a patient panel of approximately 800 patients of which 80% have a cancer diagnosis while the Kirklin Clinic overall sees almost 3000 patients daily in over 150 specialty clinics. The physical space itself houses 9 exam rooms shared with the Next Steps Survivorship program, 3 counseling rooms, a physical therapy and massage suite as well as a telehealth suite and work space for nursing and other clinical providers. Located adjacent to the Kirklin Clinic lab as well as the ENT clinic that also houses the Sullivan Head and Neck Cancer Survivorship program, the SCSC is in a highly visible place within UAB largest ambulatory building.

The Clinic maintains an interdisciplinary approach to caring for patients with serious illnesses, whether patients are in active treatment or have completed treatment. The goal is to help patients fulfill their maximum physical, emotional, spiritual, vocational, and social potential. The inter-professional team of health professionals includes physicians, nurses, physical therapists, counselors, nutritionists, massage therapists, and chaplains. These health professionals collaborate to care for complex symptoms including depression, anxiety, insomnia, fatigue, loss of appetite, pain syndromes, and other issues. Symptom issues are routinely assessed at the beginning of each visit by way of a standardized patient-reported outcomes battery of validated questionnaires. The clinic serves as a site for recruitment of cancer patients for a variety of palliative and supportive care studies. Current clinic leadership is provided by Dr. Susan McCammon. Patient appointments are made by physician or self-referral and the clinic also serves as the primary location for the community based palliative care program focused on telehealth visits and in home provider visits.