Patients with a new diagnosis of ‘renal mass’ may meet several physicians with different but similar sounding specialties.

Here’s a quick list of physicians often on the kidney cancer oncology team.

A **Urologist** is a doctor who specializes in treating diseases of the urinary system. This is usually the first doctor a patient with a new renal mass will be referred to. The urologist is typically the gatekeeper for referral to oncology care for patients with a mass suspicious for renal cancer.

A **Urologic Oncologist**, is a urologist who has special training in diagnosing and treating cancers of the urinary tract, including surgical options. A urologic oncologist has a deep specialization in managing kidney cancer.

A **Medical Oncologist** has specialized training in using drugs to treat cancer. Some medical oncologists specialize in genitourinary cancers. Patients whose cancer has spread beyond the kidney will usually be referred to a medical oncologist. They are often the oncology team member that will discuss available clinical trials with patients.

A **Radiation Oncologist** has special training in using radiation to treat cancer. While radiation is not a standard treatment for primary kidney masses, some patients whose cancer has spread will be referred to a radiation oncologist to help control a difficult or painful area.