Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) affects nearly one million people nationwide. However, many people do not know about the advanced treatment options available. The goal of UPMC Total Care is to explore all treatment options to determine what works best for each patient.

As the nation’s first Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) for people with IBD, this program provides patients enrolled with enhanced access to their IBD specialist and other health care professionals, in addition to a full spectrum of support services to allow them to regain control of their IBD.

Experts at the UPMC Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Center focus on all aspects of care for those diagnosed with IBD, including advanced GI procedures, innovative therapies, and the quality-of-life issues that they face daily. These board-certified gastroenterologists, the very same experts who are furthering the field through extensive clinical research, work together to provide quality care in these areas:

- Diagnostics and therapeutics
- Cancer surveillance
- Women’s health
- Intestinal rehabilitation and colorectal surgery
- Mental health, pain management, stress reduction
- Transitioning care from a pediatric to adult gastroenterologist

For more information about UPMC Total Care, please call 412-647-2183.
Understanding IBD and its Symptoms
Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is a set of diseases which causes the digestive tract to become inflamed and can lead to pain, vomiting, diarrhea, and weight loss. The cure for IBD remains undiscovered; however, groundbreaking research is being performed within the UPMC IBD Center related to genetic causes, immunological influences, and environmental triggers. Our experts develop individualized treatment plans for:

- Crohn’s disease
- Ulcerative colitis
- Microscopic colitis
- Pouchitis

What is UPMC Total Care?
Chronic diseases like IBD can lead to unexpected hospital visits, high medical costs, and a lower quality of life. In UPMC Total Care, a patient’s IBD specialist becomes his or her primary physician and coordinates the full scope of care, including care unrelated to the patient’s IBD. This practice is known as a Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) model.

While the location of appointments will not change, the patient will now have seamless access to a neighborhood of IBD team members and programs, including:

- Enhanced access to your IBD specialty team
- IBD-dedicated social worker
- Nurse practitioner
- Specialized dietitian
- Priority access to clinical trials
- Open access to your care team, including office visits, telephone calls, and video telemedicine
- Ancillary care services aimed at improving quality of life

This targeted coordination of care has been shown to lead to better medical coordination, fewer hospital visits and an improved quality of life.

Foundation of UPMC Total Care
Any medical center wishing to implement a PCMH must meet rigorous quality and performance parameters determined by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). These include routine documentation such as the severity of patients’ IBD, quality of life, and vitamin levels to ensure that symptoms are managed effectively. The UPMC IBD Center has been performing at these standards since 2011.

The UPMC IBD Center has constantly built upon its strong foundation of medical and surgical excellence, and is one of the largest IBD treatment teams in the nation. Our treatment regimen has expanded to include extensive ancillary services specifically related to IBD that patients can access, including:

- Behavioral health counseling.
  The Visceral Inflammation and Pain (VIP) Center incorporates behavioral health services and comprehensive medical care to help patients cope with pain, mental health issues, and the stress caused by their IBD.

- Network of support volunteers.
  Sometimes speaking openly about IBD is the biggest obstacle for patients. IBD Connect is a UPMC support network of volunteers who have personally experienced IBD and are available for hospital visits to discuss education and support for inpatients and family members.

- Women’s health.
  We collaborate with specialists at Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC to address reproductive issues in female patients, and to help pregnant women with Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis to identify potential risks for their families.

In addition to the key services listed above, care coordination is also provided for dietary counseling, dermatology, eye care, inflammation management, and pain management. Every patient is different, and the UPMC Total Care – IBD treatment team will partner with you to individualize your care.

True Meaning of Comprehensive Care
Patient members enrolled in UPMC Total Care may have conditions that are not directly related to IBD. These can range from common colds to broken bones. With UPMC Total Care, the patient’s IBD specialist will serve as his or her primary physician, helping to coordinate visits with other specialists at UPMC such as:

- Cardiac care
- Pulmonary, allergy, and critical care medicine
- Oncology services
- Orthopedics and rehabilitation
- Endocrinology and diabetes

UPMC Total Care provides enrolled patients with open access to their personal health care team. The wide range of IBD treatments, preventive care, and incidental illnesses — such as a cold or infection not stemming from your IBD — are all handled by a health care team you can rely on.

How do I enroll?
To learn more or to enroll in UPMC Total Care, please call 412-647-2183.