

Acute Oncology Service

Why have I been referred to the acute Oncology service?

You may have been referred to the Acute Oncology Service for a number of reasons:

- Complications from your cancer treatment, e.g. chemotherapy or radiotherapy
- Complications from an existing cancer.
- A suspected cancer diagnosis, which may later be found not to be a cancer, but needs further investigations to be certain.
- A newly diagnosed cancer of unknown primary (CUP), where the main site of the cancer is unknown.

What is the role of the Acute Oncology team?

The role of the team is to provide support for you and expert advice to the team caring for you, on a wide range of cancer related issues, to ensure you have the right tests, treatment, emotional support, information and advice whilst you are in hospital and to ensure you have appropriate follow up once discharged.

If you are already being treated for cancer, we can facilitate liaison between your medical team, your oncology team and your key worker, to ensure good communication.

We can help access relevant clinical information which may be essential in planning your care while in hospital.

If you are being investigated for cancer during this admission, we can help ensure that the most appropriate tests are being performed and that treatment is being planned/carried out. We can provide support and information during this time and make a referral to the appropriate cancer specific team and specialist nurses.

Who is my Key Worker?

Your Key Worker is the healthcare professional who, with your agreement, takes a key role in coordinating your care and promoting continuity. This will be the Acute Oncology Specialist Nurses until a diagnosis is made and you are referred to the appropriate team. Should you have a cancer of unknown primary (CUP) the Acute Oncology Nurse Specialist will continue to be your Key Worker.

What is the role of the Cancer Nurse Specialist?

The Cancer Nurse Specialist (Key Worker) is here to offer you and your family support and information, to assist you in coping with your diagnosis, and to ensure that you have enough

information to make informed decisions about future investigations, treatment and care. Your specialist nurse can also help you with social, emotional, physical and financial issues.

Cancer of unknown Primary (CUP)

Cancer of unknown primary (CUP) is when a cancer has spread (metastatic cancer) but even after tests have been carried out, the origin of the cancer (primary) cannot be identified. The primary cancer is unknown.

For some CUP patients, the primary cancer will remain unknown and will never be identified. However, for many of those diagnosed initially with an undefined or uncertain metastatic cancer the origin of the cancer will be found through further tests. Even when the primary site remains truly hidden and unknown, effective treatment may be found.

The Acute Oncology Team

Oncology Consultants: Dr Charlotte Moss
Dr Caroline Manetta (Lead for CUP)
Dr Joanna Stokoe

Nurses: Rose Errington 07833 046896 (Eastbourne) 8.30am - 5.00pm
Russell Langley 07833 046869 (Eastbourne) 9.00am- 5.00pm
Claire Nunn 07833 047087 (Hastings) 8.30am- 4.30pm

Please note that we are not always available immediately on the phone. You should leave a message and contact telephone number and we will get back to you usually within 24 hours (except for weekends and bank holidays)

Sources of information

East Sussex Healthcare provides support and information services, including counselling and palliative care. There are local and national organisations and centres which offer information, support and supportive therapies, which you may find helpful. Some are listed below.

Macmillan Cancer Support

Tel: 0808 808 00 00
www.macmillan.org.uk

Cancer Research UK

Freephone: 0808 800 4040
www.cancerhelp.org.uk

CUP Foundation

www.cupfoundjo.org

Eastbourne Citizens Advice Bureau

03444 111 444
www.eastbournecab.co.uk

Hastings Citizens Advice Bureau

03444 111 444

Your comments

We are always interested to hear your views about our leaflets. If you have any comments, please contact the Patient Experience Team – Tel: (01323) 417400 Ext: 5860 or by email at: esh-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net

Hand hygiene

The trust is committed to maintaining a clean, safe environment. Hand hygiene is very important in controlling infection. Alcohol gel is widely available at the patient bedside for staff use and at the entrance of each clinical area for visitors to clean their hands before and after entering.

Other formats

If you require any of the Trust leaflets in alternative formats, such as large print or alternative languages, please contact the Equality and Human Rights Department.

Tel: (01424) 755255 Ext: 2620

After reading this information are there any questions you would like to ask? Please list below and ask your nurse or doctor.

Reference

The following clinicians have been consulted and agreed this patient information:

Dr C Manetta – Consultant Clinical Oncologist

Dr C Moss – Consultant Medical Oncologist

The Clinical Specialty/Unit that have agreed this patient information leaflet:

Oncology – Specialist Medicine Clinical Unit

Next review date: July 2019

Responsible clinician/author: Rose Errington – Acute Oncology Nurse Practitioner.