

## An introduction to the multi-disciplinary team for Hepatobiliary Cancers

### Information and Support for Patients and their families

We would like to introduce you to the multi-disciplinary team for Hepatobiliary cancer, (these are cancers which affect pancreas, liver, gallbladder, duodenum and the bile ducts) at East Sussex Healthcare Trust (Conquest Hospital and Eastbourne DGH).

### Who will be involved in my care?

You will be cared for by a Multidisciplinary team consisting of doctors and nurses who all have specialist training and experience in the diagnosis, care and treatment of patients with hepatobiliary cancers.

We have listed some of the people in the team caring for you:

- Specialist Gastro - Hepatobiliary Surgeons
- Specialist Oncologists (Cancer Doctors), trained to prescribe therapies such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy
- Gastroenterologists, trained in the medical management of diseases affecting the pancreas, liver, gallbladder, duodenum and bile ducts
- Macmillan Clinical Nurse Specialists (Key Workers)
- Radiologists, who will have special expertise interpreting scans in relation to hepatobiliary cancers
- Histopathologist, a specialist Doctor who analyses tissue under the microscope
- On Treatment Radiographer, who monitors and supports patients having radiotherapy treatment
- Chemotherapy team including specialist nurses who give medication such as chemotherapy
- Patient Pathway coordinator, who ensures the patients care pathway, is smooth and timely
- Dietician, who provide expert knowledge for patients with issues related to hepatobiliary cancers.

### What if I need support or information?

People experience a wide range of emotional responses when the possibility of cancer is mentioned, and even more so if the diagnosis is confirmed.

It might be a frightening and unsettling time for patients and their relatives. Whatever you are feeling at present, it may help to talk to someone who has the time to listen and to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact the Macmillan Team; you can make a hospital appointment with us if that would be helpful.

Often your case will be referred to another specialist centre, such as The Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford or Kings College Hospital in London.

The Specialist Nurse will be happy to see you alone or with your partner, family or friend - whichever you prefer. You can ask us about your diagnosis and disease, as well as your treatment plan and what it will involve.

We can explain the treatment options and make sure you know about the different kinds of help available to you each step of the way.

If we can't answer all your questions, we will try to put you in touch with someone who can.

When your treatment is completed, the team will let you know if continued monitoring may be helpful, and if so, how this will be arranged.

## **Investigations and Treatment**

Investigations are usually initially carried out at Conquest Hospital and Eastbourne DGH. More specialist ones are done at The Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford or Kings College Hospital in London.

Depending on the type of cancer, you may receive one or a combination of treatments. These can include surgery, radiotherapy (strong X rays), chemotherapy (drug treatment) or a treatment/procedure that will help with symptoms.

If you need radiotherapy or chemotherapy your treatment will be either at Conquest Hospital or at Eastbourne DGH. This treatment is usually given as an outpatient.

An assessment before your operation is usually done at The Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford or Kings College Hospital in London.

## **Research and Trials**

These are research studies, which compare new or different treatment with existing ones. If you are eligible for any of these studies this will be discussed at the MDT, and you will be informed at your next appointment or by your clinical nurse specialist.

## **What information will I be offered?**

You can request a written summary of each consultation or copy of the letter we send to your GP.

Your Clinical Nurse Specialist will also offer you a range of information during your care.

## **How does the Team work?**

The MDT works closely together to plan and deliver the most effective treatment and care for each individual patient. This is done in consultation with you and your family and occurs at each stage of the treatment pathway.

If there is anything about your care and treatment that you do not understand please don't be afraid to ask, we are all here to help.

The Multidisciplinary Team (Eastbourne and Hastings) meet on a weekly basis (Friday 0845-0945hrs) to discuss individual patients' treatment and care. We call this meeting the Multidisciplinary Meeting or MDM meeting.

## **Tell me more about the Clinical Nurse Specialists (Macmillan CNS's)**

We are registered nurses with specialist education and training in cancer care, working alongside the multi-disciplinary Hepatobiliary cancer team both on the wards and in the outpatient department.

The CNS will have a key role in coordinating your care with different members of the multi-disciplinary team trying to ensure you have the guidance and support you require. You will normally meet them at the time of your diagnosis.

We offer expert advice on treatment options and give psychological support to you and those close to you. This is throughout your illness, alongside helping people with a possible or confirmed diagnosis of cancer to cope with the particular difficulties it may bring.

Unfortunately, the Macmillan nursing Team **does not provide a 24 hour service** so if you have an urgent enquiry and they are not available you can leave a voice message on their answerphone (will be responded to on the next working day), contact your GP, the 111 service or the Community Nurse if you are known to them.

Patients on chemotherapy treatment will be provided with additional emergency contact numbers.

### Where else can I get help or information?

Oncology Secretaries	0300 131 4500 Ext 771848
Gastroenterology secretaries	0300 131 4809 / 4810 / 4812 / 4811
Macmillan Dietician	0300 131 4532
Radiotherapy Reception (Eastbourne Unit)	01273 938900
Chemotherapy unit	Judy Beard Unit – 0300 131 5075 Pevensey Day Unit – 0300 131 4807
Local Macmillan Benefits Team	(01323) 635989
Eastbourne Clinical Nurse Specialists	07971720418
Hastings Clinical Nurse Specialists	07773118052
Macmillan Cancer Line	0808 808 0000
Benefits Enquiry Line	0800 882200
Macmillan Benefits helpline	0800 500 800
Pancreatic Cancer UK	0808 801 0707 (nurseline)

### Useful Websites

[www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)  
[www.sussexcancer.nhs.uk](http://www.sussexcancer.nhs.uk)  
[www.mycancertreatment.org](http://www.mycancertreatment.org)  
[www.nhs.uk/ips](http://www.nhs.uk/ips)  
[www.nhschoices](http://www.nhschoices)  
[www.pancreaticcancer.org.uk](http://www.pancreaticcancer.org.uk)

### Sources of information

E.g. specialist nurse, ward, consultant secretary, self-help group, national bodies or Web site addresses.

## Important information

This patient information is for guidance purposes only and is not provided to replace professional clinical advice from a qualified practitioner.

## 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: 0300 131 4731 (direct dial) or by email at: [esh-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net](mailto: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: 0300 131 4434 Email: [esh-tr.AccessibleInformation@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.AccessibleInformation@nhs.net)**

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

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## Reference

The following clinicians have been consulted and agreed this patient information:  
Joyce Irving CNS Anita Ivimy CNS

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

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Responsible clinician/author: Anita Ivimy CNS

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