

Cancer Services

Information for you: Chemotherapy

You and your family may want to know more about your condition, possible treatments and living with cancer. This leaflet aims to signpost you to staff and services that can give you further information. The information available is listed on page 2.

You will have been told about the side effects of your particular chemotherapy treatment and you will find more general information about what to expect in the chemotherapy booklet you receive.

If you develop a serious infection whilst you are having chemotherapy treatment we ask you to contact us urgently for advice as it is important to treat this complication quickly. You may need to be treated in hospital with intravenous antibiotics (delivered through a drip).

Your **RED** emergency card has telephone numbers of who to contact and we ask you to keep the card with you and show it to your doctor if you are unwell so that those caring for you are aware that you are having chemotherapy treatment.

This type of infection is known as **neutropenic sepsis**. It happens because chemotherapy affects the production of blood cells and when white blood cells (neutrophils) are reduced you are more prone to infection. Regular blood checks form part of your treatment regime, and although chemotherapy regimes vary, infection is most likely to occur between 7 and 14 days after chemotherapy, when your blood count is at its lowest.

The symptoms are:

- Fever (temperature above 38° C)
- Feeling hot and cold/ shaking and shivering



Patient Information

- Excessive bruising or severe bleeding
- Feeling very unwell even with a normal temperature
- Redness, discomfort, swelling or irritation around the injection site/ PICC/ Hickman line or Portacath
- Pain when passing urine
- Severe vomiting or diarrhoea
- An ulcerated mouth making drinking difficult

Contact the team where you usually have your chemotherapy or contact the ward if you need to call after hours:

Arden Cancer Centre Chemotherapy Suite **024 7696 7272**

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 6.00pm

Haematology Day Unit **024 7696 5491**

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm

Ward 34 (Haematology) **024 7696 5390**

Anytime day or night

Ward 35 (Oncology) **024 7696 5528**

Anytime day or night

Usually essential information is given to you by your **nursing staff**

- Chemotherapy booklet
- Emergency contact card
- Specific treatment fact sheets
- Avoiding infection fact sheet
- Food safety leaflet information
- Macmillan Cancer Support contact card

Patient Information

This information and more is also available from **The Cancer Information Centre** which is situated in the main entrance of the hospital

- Booklets about specific cancers and treatments
- Coping with side effects like fatigue, hair loss, nausea and vomiting
- Emotional effects of cancer and information to support carers including how to talk to children and others
- Cancer genetics
- Avoiding infection, mouth care, diet and cancer
- Travel and cancer, work and cancer,
- Complementary therapies, sexuality and cancer
- Cancer Trials
- Controlling the symptoms of cancer, information about peripheral neuropathy
- Adjusting to life after cancer treatment
- Financial and social services information
- Contact details for local and national charities and support groups

Hospital Information contacts

If you cannot access the internet, please contact the Cancer Information Centre, where they will help you obtain the relevant information.

Cancer Information Centre Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm 024
7696 6052

National information sources:

Cancer Research UK Free phone 0808 800 4040

Monday to Friday (9.00am – 5.00pm) www.cancerhelp.org.uk

Macmillan Cancer Support Free phone 0808 808 00 00

Monday to Friday (9.00am – 8.00pm) www.macmillan.org.uk

Free prescriptions

Patients diagnosed with cancer or still affected by side effects of disease or treatment are entitled to free prescriptions, please ask about an exemption certificate.

Patient Information

Hospital car parking

Patients receiving chemotherapy/ radiotherapy as an outpatient will receive free car parking for treatment appointments and some patients may be entitled to reimbursement of expenses if they receive certain benefits – please ask for details.

Joined in Cancer Support Group

A support group open to anyone affected by cancer, including carers. The group meets on the first Wednesday of every month at Coventry Myton Hospice. The group offers a warm and welcoming environment which aims to answer questions or discuss things you are worried about or listen to experiences of other people who understand what you're going through. For more information contact the Cancer Information and Support manager on 02476 966052

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact your department and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy

Document History

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