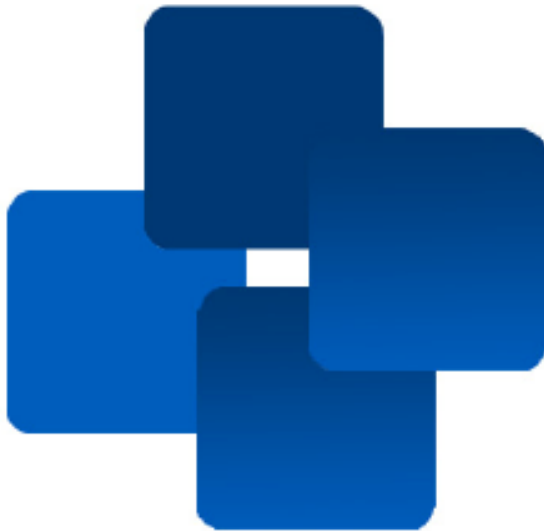


The Skin Oncology Service
Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)
Cancer Services
Information for Patients



Introduction

This leaflet contains information about the skin/oncology service and the multidisciplinary team who will be looking after you. It has been written to help you understand more about the services available to you.

Within the network, skin cancer treatments are carried out at the Lister Hospital in Stevenage, a part of East & North Hertfordshire NHS Trust.

You may still have outpatient appointments at your local hospital.

What is a multidisciplinary team? (MDT)

A multidisciplinary team is a specialist team of health professionals who, together with you and your consultant, decide your diagnosis, care and treatment. The consultant looking after you will take responsibility for your care. The team meet weekly to review and discuss suspected or diagnosed cancer. Your treatment plan will be discussed in the multidisciplinary meeting.

Members of the multidisciplinary team

Surgeon

A consultant surgeon specialises in the type of operation you require. The operation will be at the Lister Hospital.

Dermatologist

A consultant dermatologist specialises in skin conditions and treatments. They organise the relevant tests/procedures to help make a diagnosis.

Radiologist

A consultant radiologist specialises in diagnosing cancer from tests such as CT scans and X-rays. These tests and X-rays may be done at your local hospital or at the Lister Hospital.

Multidisciplinary team patient pathway facilitator

A patient pathway facilitator is responsible for organising the MDT meeting and is not involved in direct patient contact. In the event of any queries please contact your consultant's secretary.

Oncologist

A consultant oncologist specialises in treating cancer with chemotherapy (anti-cancer drugs) and radiotherapy (X-rays that destroy cancer cells). Chemotherapy may be given at the Lister Hospital or the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre. If you need to have radiotherapy, this is usually given at the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre.

If you are concerned about receiving chemotherapy or radiotherapy at a hospital not local to you, please discuss this with your consultant or key worker.

Histopathologist

A consultant histopathologist specialises in determining the type of cancer you may have from the tissue samples taken. This is normally at the Lister Hospital. The results will be discussed by the MDT and also sent to your GP.

Radiologist

A consultant radiologist specialises in diagnosing cancer from tests such as CT scans and X-rays. These tests and X-rays may be done at your local hospital or the Lister Hospital.

Clinical nurse specialist (CNS)

A clinical nurse specialist provides information, advice and support during your diagnosis and treatment and is usually your 'key worker' during treatment at the hospital. They will be your main point of contact.

Research nurse

A research nurse supports patients taking part in clinical trials. If appropriate you may be referred to a research nurse for information about a clinical trial.

Spiritual/pastoral care team

The spiritual/pastoral care team is available to listen and support patients and their relatives. You can request this service via your CNS or, if you are an inpatient at the Lister hospital, via the ward.

Psychologist

The psychologist works with the CNS to support you and your family with any emotional or practical problems arising from your diagnosis.

Other members of the MDT

You may be referred to other members of the multidisciplinary team during your stay at the Lister Hospital. This will depend on your individual needs and symptoms.

Other members of the team include:

- Physiotherapist
- Pathway facilitator
- Social worker
- Prosthetic specialist
- Occupational therapist
- Lymphoedema specialist

What can you expect from the multidisciplinary team?

The team will recommend and agree a treatment plan. This will be discussed with you at your next outpatient appointment. You can request a second opinion about your diagnosis, the recommended treatment plan and care if you wish.

You will be offered access to a CNS and you will be given information about your care and treatment, as well as information about local and national support services. The team will regularly review your case and you will have the opportunity to discuss your progress.

Your GP will be kept up to date with your care and treatment.

What is a key worker?

A key worker is a member of the multidisciplinary team you can contact to talk about your care/treatment or other matters. Your key worker can be any member of the team, but is usually the CNS.

Treatment

Your key worker will discuss with you what the MDT feel is the right treatment for you and how you feel about the treatment plan.

Depending on your diagnosis, you may need to have surgery, chemotherapy (anti-cancer drugs) or radiotherapy (X-ray treatment). Please discuss any questions or concerns with your key worker.

Who should I contact for advice and support?

During normal working hours, please contact your key worker or CNS.

For emergencies outside normal working hours, please contact your GP surgery, the Plastics Ward or your nearest Accident and Emergency Department.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

This is a confidential help and support service for patients who use our hospitals. If you have a particular concern and would like to discuss this outside your team, please call PALS on **01438 285811**.

Will my confidentiality be protected?

Yes. All information regarding your tests, diagnosis and treatment plan will be treated in a confidential manner. Only members of the multidisciplinary team and other health care professionals involved in your care, will have access to information about your diagnosis and treatment.

Will data about me be protected?

Yes. Information about your personal details is held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Where can I get more information?

For information about your cancer and its treatment please contact your key worker.

Further help and support

If you would like further information and support, please come to the Macmillan Information & Support Centre, located near the main entrance at the Lister Hospital, or call **01438 284657** or **0755 443 6746**.

If you would like information about other issues, please see contact numbers on back of this leaflet.

Useful Contact Information

Lister Hospital:	01438 314333
Hertford County Hospital:	01438 314333
Mount Vernon Cancer Centre:	02038 262020
Watford General Hospital:	01923 244366
Hemel Hempstead Hospital:	01442 213141
Luton & Dunstable Hospital:	01582 491166
CNS (key worker):	01438 284525
Ward 11B, Lister Hospital:	01438 285113
Research nurse:	01438 284806
Outpatient appointments:	01438 284279 or 01438 286397
Minor operations appointments:	01438 284264

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