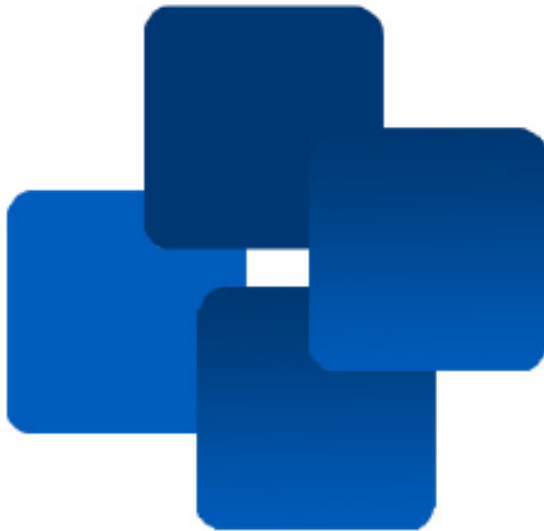


The Upper Gastrointestinal Service Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)

Cancer Services

Information for Patients



Introduction

This leaflet contains information about the upper gastrointestinal 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, upper gastrointestinal cancer investigations may be carried out at the Lister and/or New QEII Hospital depending on your needs. Surgery will be carried out at Watford General Hospital.

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

Gastroenterologist

A consultant gastroenterologist organises the relevant tests/procedures to help make a diagnosis. Your gastroenterologist may also provide endoscopic treatments at Lister and/or New QEII Hospital.

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 the Lister Hospital, New QEII Hospital or Hertford County Hospital.

Surgeon

A consultant surgeon specialises in the type of operation you require. The operation will take place at the Watford General Hospital.

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.

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 at 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 clinical nurse specialist/key worker.

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.

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.

Chemotherapy nurse

The chemotherapy nurse specialises in giving chemotherapy, managing its side effects and supporting you through your treatment.



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 clinical nurse specialists 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
- Palliative care
- Dietitian



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 the 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. You will have a key worker in your local hospital, who will communicate with other services involved in your care and with the hospital where you are being treated.

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), radiotherapy (X-ray treatment) or endoscopic therapy (laser, dilatation, stent).

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. Outside normal working hours, please contact your GP or NHS 111.

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 healthcare 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 **07554 436746**.

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

Useful Contact Information

Lister Hospital	01438 314333
Endoscopy Department, Lister Hospital	01438 285378
Mount Vernon Cancer Centre	02038 262020
Watford General Hospital	01923 244366

Lister Hospital - Secretaries

Dr Morris	01438 284050
Dr Sargeant	01438 284245
Dr Polychronis	01438 284298
Dr Hughes	01438 284298

Mount Vernon Cancer Centre - Secretaries

Dr Polychronis	02038 262435
Dr Hughes	02038 262435

Watford General Hospital - Secretaries

Mr Al Bahrani	01923 217875
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Clinical Nurse Specialists (key workers):

Kathryn Foskett	01438 285991 07887 633077
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Lesley Cowling	01438 285921 07990 566188
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(or call the hospital number above and ask for bleep 5160)

Research Nurse	01438 284806
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