Multi disciplinary Team Members

Consultant Medical Oncologist: Doctor who specialises in cancer care and management.

Consultant Haematologist: Doctor who specialises in diseases (benign and cancerous) of the blood, bone marrow and lymph glands.

Registrar: Senior doctors who work and liaise with your consultant regarding your care.

Nurse: Involved in the management of all aspects of patient care. They are involved in the planning and administration of your treatment and meeting any other needs you may have regarding your disease.

Clinical Nurse Specialist/Liaison Nurse: Help you understand your disease and treatment options and offer counselling and emotional support.

Research Nurse: The research nurse coordinates the care of the clinical trial patient.

Social Work: Will advice you with practical issues and emotional support impacting on you, as a result of your diagnosis and treatment.

Psycho-Oncology Team: Multi disciplinary team who work closely with the Oncology/Haematology teams. Their role is to provide psychological support to those patients experiencing persistent distress.

Palliative Care Team: Multidisciplinary team who help with symptom management, of patients with all stages of cancer.

Pharmacist: Co-ordinate the prescription, checking and making of your chemotherapy.

Clinical Nutritionist: Will advice you regarding nutritional matters at any stage of cancer treatment, upon referral.

Physiotherapist/Occupational Therapy: Will advice you about functional capacity and physical issues relating to your cancer, upon referral.

Clerical staff: Deal with all aspects of administrative work in the unit.

Healthcare assistant: Works with the nursing team in meeting your needs.

Catering: Refreshments will be provided, only to patients receiving treatment in the day wards.

Contact Numbers

Main reception desk 01 4162168
Oncology Day Ward 01 4103972
Haematology Day Ward 01 4103970

A list of useful numbers will also be given to you

Useful Numbers & Web Sites

Irish Cancer Society 1800 200 700
ARC House 01 7078880

www.cancer.ie
www.cancerbacup.org.uk
www.cancer.gov

Introduction

This leaflet is a general outline about the Haematology Oncology Day Ward. If at any time you have queries or questions regarding your treatment or condition, please do not hesitate to ask a member of the nursing and/or medical team.

General Guidelines

1. Check in at your appointment time.
2. Children under the age of 14 years are not allowed on the unit.
3. One visitor per patient.
4. If you or your visitor, has symptoms of diarrhoea, vomiting, cold or flu, please report this to the staff at the front desk.
5. Always bring your yellow appointment card.
6. Please bring your medications with you on each visit.
**What Actually Happens?**

These are the usual steps for a patient having treatment.

1. **ALWAYS** check in at reception.
2. The receptionist will check you in and locate your chart.
3. Your bloods will be taken by a nurse.
4. You will then be assessed by a nurse.
5. Take a seat in the waiting area until the doctor calls you.
6. You will be seen by the doctor and if your blood tests are satisfactory, you will proceed with your treatment (Bloods take time to process). The doctor will give you an appointment sheet. Hold on to this until you reach the treatment area.
7. If your blood counts are too low, your treatment may have to be postponed. We will give you another appointment.
8. Certain treatments can only be made up on the day. This will mean a wait of about 2 ½ hours. Alternatively you may be asked to return the following day for your treatment.

**Some patients do not always follow all the steps described on every visit.**

- For certain chemotherapy regimens (courses of treatment) you will not need to see a doctor each time. A clinical nurse specialist will assess you and decide, with you, if you are fit for treatment.
- Some patients attend the day ward with non-cancerous conditions (low platelets, low white cells, and anaemia, including sickle cell anaemia) and will require a blood check and a decision regarding treatment by the haematologist. A similar procedure will be in place as outlined.

**If you are unwell at home:**

- Telephone the day ward or your clinical nurse specialist.
- If you are advised to attend, please check in with reception immediately on your arrival.

**Behind the Scenes:**

Chemotherapy uses cytotoxic (anti cancer) drugs to destroy cancer cells. This treatment requires several checks throughout preparation. Many of these checks are done before the patient attends the day ward.

1. **Your treatment is prescribed by the doctor and then carefully checked by the pharmacists in the day ward.**
2. **Your prescription is then sent to the pharmacy compounding unit (where they make the chemotherapy).**
3. **Once your blood test results are satisfactory, the chemotherapy is made up in a sterile area using high-tech equipment. The pharmacist makes another check before your chemotherapy leaves pharmacy.**
4. **Your chemotherapy is then delivered to the day ward by the porter.**

- This process can take 2-3 hours.
- If you require a blood transfusion, a special blood test is required, to match you with compatible blood. The laboratory staff then process this and match it with suitable blood. This process can take 2-3 hours.