

Mobile Chemotherapy Unit

Information for patients, relatives and carers



① For more information, please contact:

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Telephone: 01904 726516

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Welcome to the Mobile Chemotherapy Unit

This leaflet provides you with information about having treatment on the Mobile Chemotherapy Unit (MCU). The MCU is part of the out-patient SACT (Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy) service delivered by York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

The MCU is a purpose-built vehicle that provides a clinical area for patients receiving chemotherapy. It is one of just a few in the country and has been bought for us by the local cancer charity York Against Cancer.

The Mobile Chemotherapy Unit travels from York to other locations within the area.

At present, these locations are Bridlington Hospital, Selby War Memorial Hospital, and Malton Rugby Club.

The aim of the MCU is to reduce the amount of travelling you have to undertake by providing an opportunity to deliver chemotherapy treatment nearer home.

Eligibility for patients to have SACT treatment delivered on the MCU largely depends on your selected SACT regimen. This will be discussed with you at your pre-assessment appointment with a SACT nurse.

All treatments will start at the Oncology or Haematology SACT Units at York or Scarborough Hospital. If you are eligible, you will be offered the option of receiving subsequent treatments on the MCU.

Hospital transport may be available to take you to the MCU for your treatment sessions; however, you will need to discuss this with your chemotherapy nurse before this can be agreed.

There may occasionally be unforeseen circumstances when the MCU cannot go to the location on the day. In this situation, you will be contacted by phone and arrangements will be made for you to receive your treatment in the out-patient department at your usual hospital.

Please talk to your consultant or one of your SACT Nurses if you would like to discuss having treatment on the MCU.

Where will I have my blood tests done?

If blood tests are required before your chemotherapy treatment, you will be given a 'request form' from the Oncology/Haematology SACT Department beforehand to enable you to have these tests done.

Blood tests can be taken either at your GP surgery or at your local hospital.

These blood tests will usually need to be taken one to two days before you have chemotherapy so that the results are available in time for your assessment and in order to prepare your drugs in advance.

Without the blood results, the chemotherapy cannot be produced, and treatment would not go ahead.

When will I be assessed?

There are no doctors on the MCU, so you will be assessed beforehand to make sure that you are well enough to receive treatment. This will either be done at clinic in the hospital or over the phone by a SACT nurse.

If this happens, it is likely to be undertaken a day or two before your treatment is due. We will do an assessment over the telephone, so you will need to make sure that you are available to receive this call on an accessible number.

This means being in reach of a landline or in a place where you can talk on a mobile privately – this is an important part of your treatment being able to go ahead. If the telephone assessment identifies that you are unwell, the treatment will be delayed. There is a possibility you will need to be seen by a doctor at your usual hospital before continuing treatment.

There may be situations where you have to stop having treatment on the MCU. This will involve discussion with both SACT nurses and your consultant. If circumstances change and you have additional needs, which cannot be accommodated on the MCU, for example, changed mobility needs, you may have to attend your usual hospital to have your treatment.

How will treatment be administered on the unit?

Your treatment will be given over the same length of time and in the same way as it is in hospital. The team staffing the mobile unit rotate their duties in the hospital and on the unit.

The MCU has four comfortable recliner chairs available, and the nurses will have all the necessary equipment to treat you on the mobile unit. To ensure your treatment day runs smoothly, you are asked to arrive at your allocated appointment time as there is a limited space on the MCU.

Hot drinks are available on the MCU, although we suggest that you bring something with you to eat and drink on a treatment day. We will offer you water during your time with us, but to assist us in reducing our waste, you may like to bring a refillable water bottle along with you.

Will I still see my consultant oncologist or haematologist if I receive treatment on the MCU?

Yes, when you are receiving treatment on the MCU you are still under the care of the same consultant oncologist or consultant haematologist as you are when receiving treatment in the hospital. You will continue to be reviewed at regular intervals depending upon the type of treatment you are receiving.

Can friends or relatives stay with me on the MCU?

Your relatives are unable to stay with you, due to limited space when the MCU is located on a hospital site, your relatives and friends may be asked to use the hospital waiting areas whilst you have your treatment.

Important contact information

If you feel unwell on the day of your treatment, please contact the Chemotherapy Helpline on **01904 726516** before you set off to attend.

If you have any queries relating to your MCU appointment or travel arrangements, please contact the chemotherapy coordinators at the Magnolia Centre on 01904 726516 Monday to Friday, 8.00am – 5pm.

York Against Cancer

As part of their commitment to the local population, York Against Cancer initiated the development of the appeal for the Cancer Care Centre at York Hospital in 1997.

The charity also provides a free minibus to St James's Hospital in Leeds. The minibus takes patients from their homes in York and surrounding areas, to the Bexley Wing at St James's Hospital in Leeds for radiotherapy treatment for cancer.

They also provide free respite breaks at two luxury properties; patients can choose from a four bedroomed house at the bay in Filey and a smaller property in Yapham (nr Pocklington) which is suitable for two people. Both are available to any York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust patient affected by cancer (and their loved ones) for a three- or four-night stay.

Eligible patients can use the properties whether they have just been diagnosed, during treatment, or have recently finished treatment. Phone them on 01904 764466 to find out more about these services or look at their website www.yorkagainstcancer.org.uk.

Tell us what you think of this leaflet

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact:

Magnolia Centre on York 01904 726516 and speak to the Senior Chemotherapy Sister/Charge Nurse.

Teaching, training and research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email yhs-tr.patientexperienceteam@nhs.net.

An answer phone is available out of hours.

Leaflets in alternative languages or formats

If you would like this information in a different format, including braille or easy read, or translated into a different language, please speak to a member of staff in the ward or department providing your care.

Patient Information Leaflets can be accessed via the Trust's Patient Information Leaflet website:
www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk/your-visit/patient-information-leaflets/



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