



York Teaching Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust

Mobile Chemotherapy Unit

Information for patients, relatives and carers



① For more information, please contact:
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Caring with pride

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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 Chemotherapy Service delivered by York Teaching Hospital 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: Scarborough Hospital, 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 chemotherapy treatment delivered on the MCU largely depends on your selected chemotherapy regimen. This will be discussed with you at your pre-chemotherapy appointment with a Chemotherapy Nurse.

All treatments will commence at the Oncology or Haematology 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 due to the weather or service 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 chemotherapy 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 Centre beforehand to enable you to have these tests done.

Blood tests can be taken either at your GP surgery or at your local hospital. In some cases, the blood tests will be taken at your usual hospital, as part of your consultant appointment prior to your treatment.

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 chemotherapy nurse.

If this happens it is likely to be undertaken a day or two before your treatment is due. We will give you a timeslot for a telephone assessment and 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 chemotherapy 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 chemotherapy 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 MCU?

Your chemotherapy will be given over the same length of time and in the same way as it is in hospital.

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 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.

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.

May friends or relatives stay with me on the MCU?

Your relatives may be able to stay with you - although 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 co-ordinators at the Magnolia Centre on **01904 726516**, Monday to Friday, 8.30am-5pm.

About 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 have two seaside properties, both available to any York Teaching Hospital 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, are in the midst of treatment or have recently finished treatment. Phone them on 01904 764466 to find out more about these services or look at their website www.yorkagaincancer.org.uk



Registered charity number 1130835

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 Lizzie Walker, Lead Chemotherapy Nurse, York Hospital 01904 725910.

Teaching, training and research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Medical students in training may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want medical students to observe. Staff may also ask you 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 pals@york.nhs.uk

An answer phone is available out of hours.

Please telephone or email if you
require this information in a different
language or format

如果你要求本資訊是以不同的語言
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01904 725566

email: access@york.nhs.uk



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