York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Malignancy of Unknown Origin (MUO)

Your Specialist Nursing Teams in York and Scarborough

Information for patients, relatives and carers

York and Scarborough Hospital Patients

ⓘ For more information, please contact:

MUO Pathway Navigator

Telephone 01904 724516

York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE

Introduction

A Malignancy of Unknown Origin (MUO) is the term we use when a patient is diagnosed as having a suspected cancer and require further investigations to help find the origin of the cancer. When an MUO is diagnosed this can be very hard to accept and even with tests, the primary cancer cannot be found. You will probably be coping with difficult feelings, so it is important to get the support you need.

You have been given this leaflet to provide you with information about the MUO Specialist Nurses, how to contact them and how they can help you. We hope you find this leaflet useful but if you have any further questions please feel free to ask.

Who is the service for?

The service is available for you, your family and or your carers if you are having further investigations or treatment for a Malignancy of Unknown Origin.

Who is an MUO Specialist Nurse?

An MUO Specialist Nurse is a registered nurse who has training in caring for patients diagnosed with cancer when the origin of their cancer is still to be identified or cannot be identified. There are MUO specialist nurses based at York and Scarborough Hospital and work as part of the wider cancer team.

How can a Specialist Nurse help?

A Specialist Nurse can help you in the following ways;

- A contact for you, your family and carers within the hospital throughout your care episode
- Information, support and advice about your illness and tests you may receive
- Advice on managing symptoms that you may have as a result of your illness
- Identifying sources of practical help
- Liaison with other people who may be involved with your care. This may be the doctors in the hospital, your GP, dietician, district nurse, and community nurse or benefits advisor

How do I contact a Specialist Nurse?

The MUO nurse can be contacted directly;

York Hospital Patients

8am - 6pm, Monday to Friday on 01904 724516

Scarborough Hospital Patients

9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday on 01723 342228

If you require urgent attention out-of-hours contact Ward 31 on 01904 726031

Useful Resources

Macmillan Cancer Support – Helpline

Telephone: 0808 808 0000 www.macmillan.org.uk

A UK charity supporting people affected by cancer: Their Support Line is a valuable source of information and advice. In selected cases they may be able to help financially.

Cancer Care Centre

York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE
Telephone: 01904 721166.
Open Monday to Friday, 9am-4.00pm

The Cancer Care Centre offers an information and wellbeing service for patients, families and carers.

Cancer Information & Support Service

Scarborough Hospital
Main Entrance, Scarborough, YO12 6QL.
Telephone: 01723 342606.
Open Monday to Friday, 10am-4pm

The Information Service offers information and support for patients, families and carers.

Cancer of Unknown Primary Foundation

www.cupfoundjo.org

This is a useful website offering support and advice for patient, relatives and carers who have been diagnosed with Malignancy of Unknown Origin.

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:

York Hospital Patients

Please contact the nurses on 01904 724516. Malignancy of Unknown Origin, Clinical Nurse Specialists.

Scarborough Hospital Patients

Please contact the nurses on 01723 342228. Malignancy of Unknown Origin, Clinical Nurse Specialists.

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/

Owner	Dawn Platt, Lead MUO Specialist Nurse
Date first issued	July 2014
Review Date	October 2028
Version	5 (issued October 2025)
Approved by	MUO MDT Members
Document Reference	PIL879 v5

© 2025 York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. All Rights reserved.