



York and Scarborough  
Teaching Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Important information you need to know when receiving Systemic Anti- Cancer Treatment (SACT)

Information for patients, relatives and carers

① For more information, please contact:

York Hospital, The Magnolia Centre

Telephone: 01904 726516

Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE

or

Scarborough Hospital, The Macmillan Unit

Telephone: 01723 342447

Woodlands Drive, Scarborough, YO12 6QL

## **Please keep this information where you can easily find it**

You are about to have a course of SACT (Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy). People undergoing SACT can suffer side-effects. Most importantly, your ability to fight infection is reduced by the treatment you are receiving.

If any symptoms of infection are left untreated, you may become very ill, very quickly. You may be at risk of developing neutropenic sepsis - a very serious infection.

Your consultant and nurse will discuss these issues with you in clinic and will stress the importance that no symptoms should be ignored no matter how minor you may think they are.

It is very important that you contact us immediately if you feel unwell, have any signs of infection or any new symptoms.

**The most common and important symptoms are:**

- A high temperature - feeling hot or cold and shivery; please check your temperature with a thermometer.
- A normal temperature should be between 36°C and 37°C.

**Remember, you can still be unwell without having a high temperature.**

- A cough or sore throat.
- A burning feeling when you pass urine or discomfort around your back passage.
- Feeling sick or vomiting.
- Having more than four runny stools a day despite taking the medicines you have been prescribed. If you have not been prescribed any medication you must ring us.
- Redness, swelling or oozing around the exit site of a PICC or Hickman Line (if applicable).

## **York patients:**

If you need us on weekdays between 08:00 and 17:00 call 01904 726516.

At all other times\* call Haematology/Oncology Inpatient Unit at York Hospital on 01904 726031. Tell them you are undergoing SACT and that you feel unwell.

## **Scarborough patients:**

If you need us on weekdays between 08:00 and 17:00 call 01723 342447

At all other times\* should call Haematology/Oncology Inpatient Unit at York Hospital on 01904 726031.

Tell them you are undergoing SACT and that you feel unwell.

\*evenings, nights, weekends and bank holidays.

## **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 on 01904 726516 or our team in Scarborough on 01723 342447.

## **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](mailto: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/](http://www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk/your-visit/patient-information-leaflets/)

**Space for your notes and questions**

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