

Homecare

Breast / Haematology Unit

Patient Information



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What is The Royal Marsden Homecare service?

Homecare is a service where some chemotherapy and supportive treatments are administered in your home by our highly trained Homecare Nurses from The Royal Marsden Homecare Team .

Our aim is to reduce the need for you to attend hospital, make it more convenient for you and reduce your travel costs whilst still ensuring you can safely receive your treatment in the comfort and privacy of your own home.

Treatments currently available for home administration are:

- Fulvestrant (Faslodex)
- Trastuzumab (Herceptin)
- Denosumab (Xgeva)
- Bortezomib (Velcade)

How does it work?

Your doctor will assess your suitability for Homecare in clinic. If, like most patients, you are deemed suitable for Homecare, you will receive the majority of your doses at home.

To ensure you do not have any adverse reactions, you will always receive at least your first dose or your first cycle of treatment in a clinic setting.

The Royal Marsden has a Homecare team who will arrange delivery of your treatment and the scheduling of your appointments. You can contact the team if you have any questions (please see page 7).

The Homecare Pharmacy team will make sure the treatment is delivered directly to your home at a convenient time for you (Monday to Friday, 8am – 6pm).

A member of the nursing team will phone you prior to your appointment. As this service means that nurses will be visiting you in your home, we need to ask you some questions first to ensure that this goes as smoothly as possible for both you and the nurse.

Frequently asked questions

Do I have to receive my treatment at home?

Following an assessment, if your doctor determines that you are not suitable to receive treatment at home, or if you have a reaction while receiving the treatment in hospital, an appointment will be made for you to continue to receive treatment in hospital.

Do I still need to attend hospital for other appointments?

Yes, you will still attend The Royal Marsden for some tests and to see your doctor. The frequency of hospital visits will vary depending on your treatment plan which will be agreed with you in advance. The doctors will see you to discuss the results of your blood tests and scans, which you will receive before your regular appointments in clinic.

Treatment	Frequency	Clinic Appointments
Fulvestrant (Faslodex)	Every 2 weeks over the first month and every 4 weeks afterwards.	Review in clinic with doctor every 3 to 6 months.
Trastuzumab (Herceptin)	Every 3 weeks	Heart tests between 3 to 12 months as agreed by your medical team and regular review in clinic.
Denosumab (Xgeva)	Every 3 to 4 weeks for the first 12 months and your doctor may want to administer it every 12 weeks afterwards. This may vary depending on your medical condition.	Blood tests every 6 weeks to monitor calcium levels. Review in clinic with doctor every 3 to 6 months.
Bortezomib (Velcade)	Weekly or fortnightly injections over a 4 or 8 week cycle (up to 8 cycles).	Blood tests at the start of each cycle. Bone marrow and trephine after 4 cycles. Regular review in clinic with your doctor.

What if I have a problem with the delivery of the treatment or want to change the date for the nurse visits?

We will provide you with the contact details of The Royal Marsden Pharmacy Homecare Team and administration scheduler. This team is your key contact for the delivery of the drug and will ensure an alternative delivery date and suitable alternative appointment time is made for you.

If for any reason, you need to change your appointment time once the drugs have already been delivered to your home, please ensure the drugs remain in the fridge until your appointment with the nurse, unless advised otherwise.

What if I have side effects from the treatment?

Side effects from agreed treatments administered at home are rare. Before you start your treatment, we will provide you with clear instructions on what to do should you experience any adverse side effects.

What happens next?

This leaflet offers you some initial information about the Homecare service. Should you have any further questions, do not hesitate to ask your doctor or Homecare Nurse. Once you and your doctor have agreed your Homecare treatment plan we will give you more information including a Homecare Passport, which will help explain the process in more detail and provide a record of your treatment.

Non-smoking policy

The Royal Marsden has a non-smoking policy across its grounds and for its staff. Although we respect an individual's right to smoke in their own home, we ask that you refrain from doing so immediately prior to and during your appointment with the Homecare nurse.

Trouble shooting

Scenario	Action required
<p>What if the drugs do not arrive at the arranged time?</p>	<p>Contact The Royal Marsden Homecare Pharmacy team.</p> <p>If a delivery cannot be made on the same day, a new delivery date may need to be arranged. This will be discussed with you.</p>
<p>What if your Homecare nurse does not arrive at the arranged time to administer the treatment?</p>	<p>Contact The Royal Marsden Homecare administrator.</p> <p>If the nurse cannot visit you at the arranged time, a new administration date may need to be arranged. This will be discussed with you.</p>
<p>What if you realise that your drugs have been left out of the fridge?</p>	<p>Put the drugs back in the fridge at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>If left out of fridge for less than 6 hours, the Trastuzumab is still appropriate for use.</p> <p>If left out of fridge for more than 6 hours, the Trastuzumab is no longer appropriate for use.</p> <p>Denosumab may be stored at room temperature (up to 25°C) for up to 30 days in the original container. Once removed from the refrigerator, Denosumab must be used within this 30 day period.</p> <p>Fulvestrant may be stored at room temperature (up to 25°C) for up to 28 days in the original container. Once removed from the refrigerator, Fulvestrant must be used within this 28 day period.</p>

<p>(Cont) What if you realise that your drugs have been left out of the fridge?</p>	<p>Bortezomib may be stored at room temperature (up to 25°C) for up to 8 hours in the original container. Once removed from the refrigerator, Bortezomib must be used within this 8 hour period.</p> <p>Contact The Royal Marsden Homecare Pharmacy Team to arrange for a new delivery.</p>
<p>What if the container for the drugs is damaged, such as a broken vial?</p>	<p>Contact The Royal Marsden Homecare Pharmacy team. They will ask you some questions to determine if you need a new delivery to be arranged.</p>
<p>What if you need a new sharps bin?</p>	<p>Contact The Royal Marsden Homecare Pharmacy team who will arrange for a new sharps bin to be provided - this will be delivered with your treatment and the Homecare nurse will remove your sharps bin once it is full.</p>
<p>What if you experience side effects to the treatment?</p>	<p>Refer to the side effects information in your Homecare Pharmacy Passport.</p>
<p>What if you want to re-arrange your delivery appointment?</p>	<p>Contact The Royal Marsden Homecare Pharmacy team.</p>
<p>What if you want to re-arrange your administration appointment?</p>	<p>Contact The Royal Marsden Homecare administrator.</p>

Contact details

The Royal Marsden Homecare Team

For questions about the delivery of your medication and general queries about The Royal Marsden Homecare service.

Homecare Pharmacy Team: 020 8642 6011 Ext: 4577

Homecare Administrator: 020 3186 5061
(Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm)

Alternatively, please call:

The Royal Marsden Macmillan Hotline: 020 8915 6899

(available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Day Units

For general enquiries about your chemotherapy before you start to receive care under The Royal Marsden Homecare service:

Medical Day Unit, Sutton 020 8661 3174
(Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm)

Bud Flanagan Ambulatory Care Unit

020 8915 6121 or 020 8915 6120
(Monday to Friday, 8am – 6pm)

References

This booklet is evidence based wherever the appropriate evidence is available, and represents an accumulation of expert opinion and professional interpretation.

Details of the references used in writing this booklet are available on request from:

The Royal Marsden Help Centre

Freephone: 0800 783 7176

Email: patientcentre@rmh.nhs.uk

No conflicts of interest were declared in the production of this booklet.

Should you require information in an alternative format please contact The Royal Marsden Help Centre.



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