
One Stop
Chemotherapy
appointments

Medical Day Unit

Patient information



Introduction

Welcome to your One Stop Chemotherapy clinic appointment. A one stop chemotherapy approach means that you will have a blood test and pre-treatment assessment, followed by a chemotherapy appointment later on the same day to receive your treatment. This means that there may be up to four hours between the two appointments while test results are analysed and your chemotherapy is made up.

It is important that you arrive on time for your appointments. If you are unable to attend at the time you have been allocated please contact us so that we can reschedule your appointment. Please note that your treatment may be delayed or rescheduled if you are not able to attend on time.

Blood tests

Before we can give chemotherapy, we need to check your blood to assess your health. Then we need to make up the chemotherapy drugs specifically for you.

When you arrive at the reception desk to check in for your appointment, you will be given blood forms and asked to go to the blood room to have your blood taken. Your blood test will be **90 minutes before** your clinic appointment time, to allow time for the blood results to be processed before you are seen. If you are not due to see the medical team you will

be given a time to attend for a blood test. Please ensure that you arrive on time.

Your blood is sent to our laboratories where it is run through automated analysers and a scientist reviews and authorises the results.

There are two parts to your blood test:

1. A full blood count which looks at your haemoglobin, red and white cell count and platelet count.
2. A biochemistry test which looks at the chemical elements in your blood.

The results from these tests are available about 90 minutes after your blood has been received in the laboratories. There may be occasions when you need specialist blood tests that take longer to process.



Testing your blood

Reviewing treatment

When the results are back from the laboratories your medical team reviews them and makes a decision as to whether we can proceed with your chemotherapy. We will discuss this with you if you are due to see the medical team. If your blood results are not satisfactory we will reschedule your appointments. Please note that you may not need to see the medical team each time you attend. Please ask your team for details of when they would like to see you.

If it has been agreed that your chemotherapy treatment can proceed, the prescription for your chemotherapy drugs is reviewed by a pharmacist to ensure that it is specifically tailored for you. This provides a check on treatment accuracy and is essential to avoid any medication errors. The pharmacist checks your diagnosis, medication history, chemotherapy history and allergy status to ensure the prescribed drugs are safe and appropriate for you. Your full blood count and biochemistry results are also reviewed to ensure that it is safe for treatment to proceed.

If the pharmacist has any questions with regard to your treatment, they will speak to your doctor to address these. There may be occasions when this extends the time taken to process your prescription.

Preparing your chemotherapy

Once these checks have been carried out, we can prepare your chemotherapy. This needs to be done in specialist facilities to reduce the possibility of contamination of your medication. All prepared chemotherapy is stored under controlled conditions to ensure it is suitable for use at the time of treatment.

In order to reduce waiting times, where possible, doses are prepared in advance of your chemotherapy appointment. However, some treatments must be prepared on the same day as your appointment, because of a short expiry of the drug or treatment protocol. This may mean that your chemotherapy appointment time is later than other patients seen in the same clinic, to enable the pharmacy team sufficient time to prepare your treatment.

After the chemotherapy has been prepared, if you are due to receive it on the Medical Day Unit or in Outpatients, it is taken there where the nurses carry out a final check before setting up your drugs to be given.

For further information

Please speak to your nurse or consultant if you have any questions about One Stop Chemotherapy appointments. If you wish to make a

change to your appointment or cannot make your scheduled appointment please contact us so that we can reschedule it for you.

Contact us

Outpatients, Sutton

Tel: 020 8661 3430

Scheduling

Medical Day Unit, Sutton

Tel: 020 8915 6167

Medical Day Unit, Chelsea

Tel: 020 7808 2320/5

The Royal Marsden Macmillan Hotline:

020 8915 6899

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

References

This leaflet 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 leaflet 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 leaflet.

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

Revised November 2020. Planned review November 2023
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Radiotherapy and
Chemotherapy Services
P538021 & P538022

