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Two Stop  
Chemotherapy  
appointments

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**Medical Day Unit**

**Patient information**



## Introduction

Welcome to your Two Stop Chemotherapy clinic appointment. A two stop chemotherapy approach means that you have a blood test and pre-treatment assessment on one day when you will be seen and assessed for your treatment. You will also be given an appointment to return to the hospital on a different day for your chemotherapy appointment when you will receive your treatment.

It is important that you arrive on time for your appointments. If you are not able 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 and we then need to make up the chemotherapy drugs specifically for you.

When you arrive at the reception desk to check in for your appointment we will give you blood forms to take 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 results to be processed. 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.

After your blood test and any pre-treatment assessment you are free to leave the hospital and return for your scheduled appointment on a different day to receive your chemotherapy in the Medical Day Unit.

If it has been agreed that your treatment can proceed, the prescription for your chemotherapy drugs is reviewed by a pharmacist to ensure that it is specifically tailored for you. This ensures 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.

When you return to the hospital for your chemotherapy appointment you will go straight to the Medical Day Unit or Outpatients. 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 Two 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](mailto:patientcentre@rmh.nhs.uk)

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

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