
What to expect on your visit to the Medical Day Unit

Chelsea

Patient information



Introduction

The Medical Day Unit is a treatment area which provides care for patients receiving chemotherapy, blood products and other drug treatments. The Medical Day Unit is open Monday to Friday from 8am–8pm.

Before your first visit for treatment on the Medical Day Unit

You are welcome to visit the unit or contact us to discuss any aspect of your care before starting your treatment.

You may choose to bring a friend or relative with you on your visits. Unfortunately, due to lack of space, we can only accommodate two visitors per patient and we would advise you not to bring small children.

It would be helpful if you bring the following items with you:

- Any regular medications that you will need to take during your visit (for example, painkillers)
- Your appointment card.

In consideration of all our patients we ask that mobile phones are not excessively used in clinical areas. Please note that personal electrical equipment (such as laptops or mobile phones) must have a valid PAT test before it can be plugged into the hospital mains supply.

Before your first visit for treatment you may need the following:

- A blood test
- Your height and weight measured
- A nursing assessment
- Assessment by a doctor – they will ask you to sign a consent form for your treatment.

Other tests may be carried out before your planned treatment. Your doctor or nurse will explain these to you.

Your first visit for treatment on the Medical Day Unit

We will give you an appointment time. Please arrive at the hospital in good time. When you arrive at the hospital, please go to the reception desk at the Medical Day Unit, which is on the ground floor of Chelsea Wing.

- When you have had your blood test, please sit in the waiting area. Blood test results usually take one and a half hours to come back.
- Your height, weight and observations (temperature, pulse and blood pressure) will be checked. Please stay in the Medical Day Unit until you have been seen by the doctor.
- A doctor, chemotherapy trained nurse or pharmacist will see you and prescribe your treatment and any tablets that you may need to take home with you. When you have been seen, your prescription will be sent to

pharmacy so that your treatment can be prepared.

- Most appointments are over two days so that we have time to prepare your treatment.
- If your treatment is on the same day, please note that it can take three hours for chemotherapy to be prepared by the pharmacy once we have the results of your blood test and the go ahead from your doctor. Many people prefer to leave the unit during this time. You can leave your mobile phone number, so that we can contact you when your treatment is ready.

If you do leave the unit, please let reception know when you return.

Having your treatment

- At your appointment time a nurse will take you to the treatment area and allocate you a chair. The nurse will explain the treatment, tell you what side effects you may experience and answer any questions you have. Once you feel you have enough information, your treatment will be started.
- The nurse or pharmacist will go through your tablets that you need to take home with you (if you require them). We will give you the details of who to contact if you have any questions or worries.

- We will book your next appointment for you. Please ensure you have your appointment card before leaving the unit.

During your treatment, a light lunch and hot drink will be provided. If you feel you will require more than this then please bring this with you. Friends and relatives can buy refreshments at the Friends of The Royal Marsden shop in outpatients or at the café by the Dovehouse Street entrance.

Further visits to the Medical Day Unit

Each visit will be similar. We will ask you about any side effects you may have experienced. It is very important that you describe any symptoms or concerns that you have as clearly as possible.

If you have another appointment on the same day, please let us know. We will try to co-ordinate these two appointments for you.

While we try to keep unnecessary waiting to a minimum, your length of stay on the unit will depend upon the type of tests, assessment, chemotherapy preparation and treatment you need.

Contact details

For general information or information regarding appointments, please contact the Medical Day Unit reception:

020 7808 2320

Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm

If you need further advice or if you would like to make any comments or suggestions, please contact:

**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.

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.

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