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## What to expect on your visit to the Medical Day Unit (MDU)

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Kingston Hospital  
Sir William Rous Unit

Patient information



## Introduction

The MDU is a treatment area which provides care for patients receiving chemotherapy, and other treatments. It is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

We will give you an appointment time to arrive at the unit. Please let us know if you are going to be late for your appointment.

You may choose to bring a friend or family member with you on your visit. Unfortunately, due to lack of space we can only accommodate one visitor for each patient, but no children under the age of 12.

On your first visit to the unit, you may see both a nurse and a doctor in clinic. Most of the following information is for people having chemotherapy treatment.

## Assessment before chemotherapy treatment

1. If you are having chemotherapy treatment, you will have a blood test. If you need any other tests, your nurse will explain these to you.
2. If it is your first cycle of treatment, you will have seen a doctor, who will assess you and ask you to sign a consent form for your treatment.
3. On each **further visit** for chemotherapy treatment, you may see the doctor and you will be required to have a blood test – each visit will be the same. The nurse will ask you

about any side effects you may have experienced in between visits. It is very important that you describe any symptoms or concerns that you have as clearly as possible.

4. The doctor will prescribe your treatment and any medications that you may need to take home with you.
5. When you have seen the doctor, you will be given an approximate time to wait for your treatment.

## **Preparing your chemotherapy**

The chemotherapy is prepared in advance most of the time and delivered to the unit from The Royal Marsden, Sutton. There may be instances when you will need to wait for your chemotherapy, for example if the dose of chemotherapy needs to be changed or if the treatment needs to be made on the day. Your nurse will be able to inform you of how long you may have to wait. If you are having chemotherapy as part of a trial, you may have a longer wait.

If you would like to leave the hospital during this time, you can leave your mobile phone number. We will then contact you when your treatment is ready.

## **Having your treatment**

When your treatment is ready, a nurse will insert a small tube into a vein in your hand or arm (cannula) and your treatment will start.

Please bring with you any regular medications that you will need during your visit (for example, pain killers).

During your treatment, we can provide hot or cold drinks and sandwiches at lunchtime. Friends and relatives can buy refreshments at the League of Friends shop in outpatients, the Costa Coffee café or restaurant.

## **When your treatment is finished**

The nurse or pharmacist will go through your medications that you need to take home with you and advise you what side effects you may experience. Please see contact details on page 4.

We will ensure your next appointment is booked before you leave the unit and you have your medications to take home.

## **General information**

**Please allow for unforeseen delays when receiving your treatment.**

We always aim to adhere to meet appointment times and prevent unnecessary waiting.

On your visit to the MDU you will be asked to provide feedback via the 'Did you get great care today?' questionnaire. Your feedback is important to us and helps us understand your experience of the service we provide.

## Contact details

Please contact The Royal Marsden Macmillan hotline for information or advice if you are unwell between treatments.

**The Royal Marsden Macmillan**

**Hotline: 020 8915 6899**

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

For general queries, please call:

**MDU reception: 020 8973 5030**

(Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)

**MDU Matron: 020 8661 3084**

If you have any comments about the service you have received, please feel free to give them to the Sister or one of the staff nurses.

## References

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)

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.



The patient information service is generously supported by The Royal Marsden Charity.  
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Registered Charity No.1095197

Revised June 2019. Planned review June 2022  
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IV-1090-03

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