

The Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Explained Information for Patients

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in alternative languages / formats on request.

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Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona
w innych językach/formatach.

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This leaflet contains information about the multidisciplinary team who will be looking after you.

It has been written to help you understand more about the services available to you.

What is the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)?

The multidisciplinary team (MDT) is a specialist group of doctors, nurses, radiologists and pathologists who are experts in cancer.

They work together and meet each week to review patients' investigations and recommend a plan of care that is best for each patient.

The team is responsible for:-

- Reviewing all the information about each patient
- Deciding if any further tests are necessary
- Agreeing the best treatment options
- Making appropriate referrals to specialist services
- Ensuring that your views and concerns are heard.

Macmillan Cancer Information & Support centre

We are open for Information, support and advice for anyone who has been affected by cancer at any stage.

We can signpost to clinical teams, counselling, complementary therapy, HOPE self-management course, benefits, and local and national support groups and services.

We are based on the Lower Ground Floor, St Helens Hospital (Near to the Spice of Life Restaurant).

Opening Times

Monday to Friday (except Bank Holidays) 8.30 am to 4 pm

Telephone: 01744 646985

Email: macmillansupport@sthk.nhs.uk

Macmillan Cancer Support National Number

0808 808 0000 8am-8pm 7 days a week

www.macmillan.org.uk

Clinical trials

Clinical trials are medical research studies involving people.

Doctors use them to assess any new treatment before it can be made available to patients more widely.

Clinical trials show whether new treatments are safe, what their side effects are and whether they are better than what is currently used.

By participating in research you may feel as though you are taking a more active role in your healthcare.

You will also be helping others, and possibly yourself, by helping to identify more effective treatments.

To find out more about research and whether any studies may be right for you please speak to your doctor or nurse, alternatively the team may contact you and offer you the choice to participate in a research trial if appropriate.

However, you do have the right to refuse and this will not affect the care that you receive.

The MDT

Consultant

A senior doctor who specialises in the diagnosis and treatment of specific cancers including surgery and Palliative Care.

Radiologist

A doctor who specialises in pictures/images from machines such as x-ray, computerised tomography (CT) to determine the precise location and extent of cancer.

Histopathologist

A doctor trained to look in detail at tissue samples to determine if it is cancer and what type of care is needed.

Oncologist

A senior doctor who specialises in the treatment of specific cancers including chemotherapy, radiotherapy and hormones.

Palliative Care Specialist

A doctor or nurse who specialises in controlling symptoms of cancer and its treatments and provides support and information to patients and their families.

MDT Co-ordinator

Ensures your test results are available and where appropriate, sends information to other treatment centres to help co-ordinate your care.

What happens after MDT

The recommendations are recorded in your notes (a copy will be sent to your GP).

The team will discuss their recommendations with you and provide information and support so you can understand your options and the aim of your treatment.

Permanent Record of Consultation

If you require a record or summary of any consultation with the doctor where your diagnosis, treatment options and follow up (discharge) arrangements are discussed, please ask the doctor or nurse/keyworker.

Research Team

This team may contact you and offer you the choice to participate in a research trial if appropriate.

However, you do have the right to refuse and this will not affect the care that you receive.

Nurse Specialist

Every patient with cancer should have access to a clinical nurse specialist from the day of diagnosis to provide:

- A point of contact
- Information and support on cancer diagnosis, investigations and treatments
- Information and support on physical and psychological concerns
- Information and support on practical concerns such as finance
- Information and support for patients and families about continued care at home
- Someone to talk to about your worries and fears
- Information about services available and refer you and your family
- The nurse specialist will ensure that all patients have a holistic needs assessment and those patients views are discussed at MDT.