An Introduction to the Multidisciplinary Team for Upper Gastrointestinal Cancers and Hepato-Pancreatic-Biliary Cancer

We would like to introduce the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) who provides the care for people undergoing investigations for and receiving a diagnosis of Upper-Gastro-Intestinal (UGI) cancer or Hepato-Pancreatic-Biliary (HPB) Cancer at Worthing Hospital.

Who are the multidisciplinary team?

The Multidisciplinary Team consists of Doctors, Nurses and other Health Care Professionals, who all have specialist training and experience in the diagnosis and management of UGI and HPB cancers.

We have listed below some of the people who are in the team caring for you:

**Gastroenterology Consultants:**
- Dr Z.Mrevlje
- Dr S.Thomson
- Dr K.Thompson
- Dr V.Audimoolam
- Dr A.Li

**UGI Surgical Consultants:**
- Mr K.Hamdan
- Mr D.Manifold
- Mr K.Singh

(Brighton &Sussex University Hospital)

**HPB Surgical Consultant:**
- Mr T.Worthington

(The Royal Surrey County Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust, Guildford)

**Oncologists:**
- Dr E.Selvadurai
- Dr R.Herbertson

**Clinical Nurse Specialists**
- Rosie Hesling
- Sandra Hall

(Professional Support Staff)

**Radiologist:**
- Dr G.Lai
How do we work?

We work together to organise necessary investigations as well as plan and deliver the most appropriate care for each individual patient. This is discussed with the patient and their family at each stage of the investigation and care pathway.

If there is anything about your investigations, care and/or management plan that you do not understand, please don’t be afraid to ask. We are all here to help you.

The Multidisciplinary Team meets on a weekly basis to discuss the management plan of patients who are undergoing investigations for or have a confirmed diagnosis of UGI or HPB cancer. This includes videoconferencing with our surgical colleagues at Brighton and Sussex University Hospital and Guildford Hospital where patients needing a surgical opinion are discussed and their radiological images, (scans and x-rays), are reviewed.

Decisions from the meeting are discussed with the patients by the Consultant and/or the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS). It is usually necessary to get the results of all relevant investigations before that discussion can take place.

What hospital investigations, appointments and treatments will I have?

Investigations may include some or all of the following: Endoscopy, x-rays, scans, biopsies and laparoscopy. The most suitable investigations will be decided upon to determine the type and stage of the disease so the most appropriate management plan can be arranged. Some investigations are done at other centres if this is necessary you will be informed.

Following your initial appointment subsequent contact may be in the form of a phone call to inform you of further investigations that may be necessary. To receive results of investigations you will have a choice of coming to an out patient’s appointment either with a doctor or one of the nurse specialists – some people wish to have more contact by phone – the options will be discussed with you and your preference taken into account when the arrangements are made. Ongoing follow up arrangements will be organised for you following a discussion with you by the nurse specialists and may involve hospital appointments, phone contact or referral to community services. Please also remember we encourage you to bring a close friend or relative with you to any appointment.

Treatments may include one or a combination of the following: surgery, (at BSUH or Guildford), chemotherapy, (usually at Worthing Hospital, occasionally at Brighton Cancer Centre), radiotherapy, (at Brighton Cancer Centre) and Supportive Care, (managed between the hospital and community teams)
What is the role of your Clinical Nurse Specialist, (CNS) ?

The CNS is also known as your ‘Key Worker’. They take a key role in coordinating your care with different members of the multi-disciplinary team and ensure you have the guidance, information, (verbal and written), and support you require.

What are clinical trials?

These are research studies that compare new or different treatments with existing ones. If you are asked to join a clinical trial, you are free to choose whether or not to take part in it. The CNS and specially trained research nurses will provide you with the information you need to make that decision.

The Trust has an active research department but owing to our size may not be able to offer inclusion into all nationally available Trials. If you wish to discuss the availability of Trials and explore referrals to alternative hospitals please discuss this with your doctor during your appointment or contact their secretary.

Can I have written information about my case?

You are very welcome to have copies of all the clinic letters and correspondence between professionals that is about you. Some consultants will routinely send a copy of their letters to the patient – please let your consultant, their secretary or one of the nurse specialists know if you have a preference as to whether or not you receive copies of your clinic letters.

You will be offered written information about any investigations you may need, your diagnosis and management options. If you feel you need more information please contact the Nurse Specialists or speak to the department staff where you are having the test.

Can we improve our service?

We value your views regarding your experience with our services and regularly aim to involve patients and their relatives or carers in reviewing the delivery of care, to this end you may at some point receive a questionnaire. Please however feel free to inform any member of the team, verbally or in writing, if you think there are areas that need improving or if there is something you feel we do particularly well even if you do not receive a questionnaire. We are always very grateful for your feedback.
You may be asked to participate in a national or local ‘Patient Experience Survey’ at some point during or after your treatment. We intend to use this information to help us identify where patient experiences have been positive and also, importantly, where further work and improvement is needed.

You may receive one of these questionnaires by post. Receipt and completion of the questionnaire is entirely voluntary. Please be assured that if you decide to complete the questionnaire, your answers will be treated in absolute confidence and will not affect any future care. An independent auditor will review the information.

Is there someone to talk to?

Undergoing investigations for and being diagnosed with UGI or HPB cancer often has a major effect on people, and may impact on several aspects of life physically, emotionally and socially. The Clinical Nurse Specialist is here to provide supportive care and advice or information about your particular type of cancer from the time of diagnosis until you are discharged back to the care of your GP. Contact details of the CNS are detailed below, there is also access to a counsellor and a Support Group if you need extra support and you can get information about them and be referred by the CNSs

- Clinical Nurse Specialists for UGI and HPB Cancer
  Rosie Hesling and Sandra Hall
  01903 205111 ext. 84534 or bleep 164

The nurse specialists usually work Monday to Friday 8.30-16.30, however, due to clinic and ward attendance, leave, meetings, mandatory training and other unforeseen circumstances they are not always available to answer the phone so please do use the answer phone facility. If there is likely to be a delay longer than 24 hours in returning your call this will be stated on the answerphone message, so please do listen carefully. If you feel you need an urgent response or feel unwell we would recommend that you seek medical advice from your GP surgery in case the nurses are unable to return your call on the same working day.

Please remember this leaflet is intended as general information only. It is not definitive. We aim to make the information as up to date and accurate as possible, but please be aware it is always subject to change. You should check specific advice with your doctor. After reading this leaflet, are there any questions you would like to ask? Write down any questions or concerns you have and ask a doctor or the CNS. Remember, we are here to help, so don’t be afraid to ask.

We are committed to making our publications as accessible as possible. If you need this leaflet in an alternative format – for example, large print, Braille or a language other than English – please contact the communications office by telephoning 01903 205111 ext 84038.