

The neuro-oncology team looking after you (key worker and MDT)

Information for Patients
Cancer Services

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Patient Label

Contact Details

Your Clinical Nurse Specialist (key worker) is

Contact number is **0116 258 6433**

Mobile number is **07534 227 963**

Usual hours of work are 08:30am to 4:30pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

Your Support Worker is

Contact number is **0116 258 6433**

Usual hours of work are 09:30am to 5:30pm Wednesday and Friday.

Outside these hours:

Oncology Emergency Helpline:

0808 178 2212 (24 hours a day / 7 days a week)

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

Introduction

You have been given this leaflet because you or a close relative or friend has been diagnosed with a brain or central nervous system tumour. It explains which health care professionals are part of the neuro-oncology team and who is available to offer support, information and advice, including when treatment has finished

The role of your key worker

In order to ensure that patients with cancer and their families are able to access appropriate support and information, all patients have a known Clinical Nurse Specialist who they can contact. This person is called a **key worker** and will be available from diagnosis, through treatment and beyond.

As care can take place in a variety of settings such as hospitals or community settings your key worker may change. If this happens you will be told and given the contact details of your new key worker.

Your key worker:

- is a central point of contact for support and information for you and your family.
- will assess your needs and ensure that you receive the care you require, and that you are involved in decisions about your care as much as possible.
- will ensure that you are referred to (and receive) other services as required.
- will contact other members of the health care team, such as district nurses or palliative care nurses, as needed.

Advice and information

Some subjects you may wish to discuss with your key worker include:

- radiotherapy
- chemotherapy
- coping with symptoms
- medication relating to your cancer
- local and national support groups

Your key worker will also be able to advise and ensure you are aware of how to contact services including:

- financial advice, including benefits
- support services, including social services, home care and hospice care
- emotional and psychological support and counselling

What is a multidisciplinary team (MDT)?

The team of health professionals looking after you is known as the multidisciplinary team or MDT. Healthcare professionals who may be part of your MDT include:

Neuro-surgeons: these are the doctors who will decide if surgery is possible and who will be in charge of your surgical care. They are highly experienced in their field and based at Nottingham University Hospitals.

Neuro-oncologist: a doctor who specialises in the treatment of brain and central nervous system tumours.

Neuro-radiologist: a doctor who specialises in interpreting radiology images such as MRI scans, in particular of the brain and spine.

Neuro-histopathologist: a doctor who uses specialised equipment to examine tissue removed during surgery. This enables the MDT to diagnose the tumour and plan subsequent treatment.

Clinical nurse specialist (CNS): also known as your **key worker**. A highly skilled specialist nurse who can provide support, advice and information at any point from diagnosis. The CNS will act as a link between you and the rest of your team and refer you as necessary to community teams such as palliative care nurses and community therapists.

Cancer support worker: works very closely with your key worker. They may meet with you or provide telephone advice and will always make sure your key worker (CNS) is aware of any support you may require. They may help you complete a holistic needs assessment or concerns checklist so that you can have a care plan which is individual to your needs.

MDT co-ordinator: an administrator who ensures the smooth running of the MDT meeting and records the minutes.

There may be other health care professionals at the MDT meeting, for example occupational therapists or physiotherapists.

What happens at the MDT meetings?

The MDT is there to ensure that each patient is given the same high standard of care, and has the most appropriate investigations and treatment, no matter who their GP is or which hospital they attend. We meet every Friday morning (except Bank Holidays).

During the meeting the team will discuss your case and look at any scans you may have had. If you have had surgery they will look at the tissue samples and then decide on the best treatment for you. This decision will take into account your age, fitness, and other medical conditions and the type of tumour you have. As tumours of the brain and central nervous system are rare, the MDT consists of doctors from Nottingham, Derby, Leicester and Lincoln, pooling their collective specialist knowledge for your benefit.

How do I find out the outcome of this meeting?

A member of the team (usually your oncologist or CNS) will discuss your treatment plan with you at your next appointment. Very occasionally you may be given the outcome over the telephone, if this has been agreed in advance. Results of tests or diagnosis are very rarely given by telephone as this can be distressing, particularly if the results are not as expected.

What is a Holistic Needs Assessment (HNA)?

This is a chance for you to think about your concerns and discuss possible solutions with your key worker. It gives you the time to explore what resources, help and support are available.

Please ask your key worker for a Holistic Needs Assessment if you think that this would be helpful for you.

For more information go to www.macmillan.org.uk/recoverypackage

Other sources of information

Macmillan Information and Support Centre

Osborne Building, Leicester Royal Infirmary, LE1 5WW

Opening hours Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm

Telephone: 0116 258 6189

Email: cancerinfo@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

Website: www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/cancerinfo

Brain Tumour Charity

Support and information line: 0808 800 0004

Website: www.thebraintumourcharity.org

Macmillan Cancer Support

For information and support from cancer support specialists.

Freephone: 0808 808 00 00

Website: www.macmillan.org.uk

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If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk