

**Patient  
Information**

# Having Chemotherapy

This book tells you what happens when you have Chemotherapy tablets



**This book has 3 parts called**

**1. Before you have Chemotherapy Page 3**

**2. Getting your Chemotherapy tablets Page 8**

**3. Taking your Chemotherapy tablets Page 9**

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Department

**Patient  
Experience**

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## 1. Before you have Chemotherapy

### What is chemotherapy?



Chemotherapy is a way of treating cancer. Lots of people call it Chemo for short.



Chemo is special medicine that helps your body fight cancer.

The medicine will be in small tablets that you have to take.



You will have to go to hospital to get your tablets. We will tell you when to go.



Your carer can go with you.

**Patient  
Information**

**1. Before you have Chemotherapy**

**Having a blood test**



You have to have a blood test before you can have Chemo.



A blood test is when someone puts a needle into your arm to get a little bit of blood. It might hurt a little bit but it is very important.



You might have a blood test at your doctor's surgery before you go to the hospital.



Or you might have a blood test when you are at the hospital.

**Patient  
Information**

**1. Before you have Chemotherapy**

**Going to the hospital**



When you get to the hospital go to the reception desk and tell the person your name.



Waiting Room

They will tell you to wait in the waiting room.



Sometimes the waiting room is very busy.



If you would like to sit in a quiet place tell the person on reception.

They will try to find you a quiet place to sit.

## 1. Before you have Chemotherapy

### The waiting room



In the waiting room there is a shop. You can buy drinks and snacks.

There is also a place where you can get information about cancer.



The staff are very friendly. They can give you information and answer your questions.



If you leave the waiting room for any reason tell the person on reception.

Give the person on reception your mobile phone number.

They will call you when it is time for your chemo.

**Patient  
Information**

**1. Before you have Chemotherapy**

**Seeing the doctor or nurse**



You will go and see the doctor or nurse before they give you're your Chemo tablets.



The doctor or nurse will ask you how you are feeling. They will check that you are ok to have your Chemo.



After you have talked to the doctor you will go back to the waiting room.



## 2. Getting your Chemotherapy tablets

### Getting your tablets



Someone will come and get you when it is your turn to get your Chemo tablets.



They will take you to a quiet place. Your carer can go with you.



The pharmacist or nurse will give you your tablets.  
They will also give you information about your tablets like:

- When to take your tablets
- How you might feel when you are taking your tablets
- You may be given other tablets too, to make you feel better during chemo.



Then you can go home.

**Patient  
Information**

**3. Taking your Chemotherapy tablets**

**At home**



It is very important that you take your tablets at the right times.  
If you don't they may not work properly



Your Chemo tablets might make you feel tired.  
You might want to rest in the day.



Make sure you drink lots of water or squash.  
Try to have 8 drinks a day.

**3. Taking your Chemotherapy tablets**

**If you feel ill**



If you feel ill, you or your carer can call us on the phone at any time.

We will ask some questions on the telephone to help us decide if you need to come to hospital.



**Patient  
Information**



You or your carer can call us at any time of the day or night.  
The telephone number is **0300 422 3444**

**Learning Disability Nurses**



There are special nurses at the hospital called Learning Disability Liaison Nurses. You can ask to see a Learning Disability Liaison Nurse if you need some support when you come to hospital.

If you want more information call: **0300 422 4985** or **0300 422 4953**

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