

Patient Information

Mobile Chemotherapy Unit (MCU)

Bringing chemotherapy treatment closer to patients' homes

MCU supported by:
Hope for Tomorrow Tel: 01666 505 055
 Registered charity no. 1094677
 Website: www.hopefortomorrow.org.uk



Introduction

This leaflet gives you information about the Mobile Chemotherapy Unit (MCU).

The MCU is a purpose built vehicle with 4 recliner chairs and all the necessary equipment to provide chemotherapy treatment. This is part of the Outpatients Chemotherapy Service that runs from Cheltenham General Hospital.

The MCU is supported by the national cancer charity 'Hope for Tomorrow'.

The MCU travels to community hospitals in Gloucestershire and is in operation 4 days a week:

Tuesdays: Tewkesbury Hospital

Wednesdays: Dilke Hospital

Thursdays: Stroud Hospital

Fridays: Cirencester Hospital

Who can have treatment on the MCU?

This is dependent on the selected chemotherapy that you are receiving. This will be discussed with you at your pre-chemotherapy appointment and with the chemotherapy nurse.

You will receive the first treatment in the Oncology Centre at Cheltenham General Hospital.

Reference No.

GHP11028_09_17

Department

Oncology

Review due

September 2020

**Patient
Information**

There may be further treatments in Cheltenham throughout your course of chemotherapy. The MCU unit gives you the option to have your treatment nearer home. The MCU locations have free and accessible parking and the use of out-patient waiting facilities so that you will be able to be with your family and friends.

Please talk to your consultant, or a chemotherapy nurse if you would like to discuss having treatment on the MCU.

Hospital transport is not available to take you to the MCU for treatment.

There may be unforeseen circumstances such as the weather when the MCU cannot go to the planned location on the day. If this happens you will be contacted by phone and arrangements will be made for you to receive your treatment in the Oncology Centre.

Blood tests

If needed, you will be given a request form for a blood test to have taken 2 days before your chemotherapy treatment. This is so that the results are available for your assessment and preparation of treatment.

You must arrange for your blood to be taken at your GP's surgery or local hospital. In some cases, the blood test will need to be taken during your clinic appointment.

When will patients be assessed?

As there are no doctors on the MCU you will be assessed in the Oncology Centre for your fitness to have chemotherapy treatment.

Alternatively you may be given a telephone appointment to be assessed by a specialist chemotherapy nurse.

If the result of your assessment finds that you are unwell, your treatment will be delayed for a week. You may need to be seen by the doctor in the Oncology Centre before continuing treatment.

Sometimes your treatment on the MCU may be stopped. This may be due to either how you feel during the treatment or the condition of your veins for having a cannula (fine tube) put in place. This will be discussed with you.

Patient Information

If your circumstances change and you have additional needs which cannot be met on the MCU, you may have to attend the Oncology Centre your treatment.

Arriving for treatment

To make sure that the day runs smoothly, you are asked to arrive for treatment at your allocated appointment time. Please ring the bell on the MCU when you arrive. Due to space the nurses may ask you to wait in the hospital until they are ready. Hot drinks are available on the MCU. You can bring refreshments for the visit if you would like.

Can relatives stay with the patient on the MCU?

Carers and relatives are unable to stay with you during your treatment as there is limited space available. However, they are welcome to use the hospital waiting area.

Will patients see their consultant if they receive treatment on the MCU?

You will be under the care of the same oncology/haematology consultant and will be reviewed in the Oncology Centre during your chemotherapy treatment.

Contact information

If you feel unwell on the day of your treatment, please contact the Chemotherapy Helpline for advice before attending the MCU.

Chemotherapy Helpline

Tel: 0300 422 3444 (24 hours)

If you have any questions about your MCU appointment or travel arrangements, please contact:

Chemotherapy Booking Office

Cheltenham Oncology Centre

Tel: 0300 422 3366

Content reviewed: September 2017