

# Having Chemotherapy

This booklet tells you what happens when you have Chemotherapy through a drip



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Department

**Patient  
Experience**

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**1**

**Before you have Chemotherapy**

**What is Chemotherapy?**



Chemotherapy is medicine that helps your body fight cancer

Lots of people call it 'Chemo' for short



Your Chemo will be given to you through a tube in your arm called a drip



You will have to go to the hospital to have your Chemo



We will tell you when you need to go. Your carer can go with you

**1**

**Before you have Chemotherapy**

**Having a blood test**



You will need to have a blood test before you can have Chemo



A blood test is when a nurse gently puts a needle into your arm and takes some blood

It might hurt a little bit but it is very important to have this test



Your blood will be looked at through a microscope to see if you can have Chemo



GP Surgery



Hospital

You might have your blood test at your doctor's surgery or at the hospital

**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



They will tell you to wait in the waiting room where they may be lots of other people



If you want to sit in a quiet place make sure you tell the person at the reception desk

They will try to find you a quiet place for you to wait for your Chemo

**1**

**Before you have Chemotherapy**

**In the Waiting Room**



In the Waiting Room there is a shop where you can buy drinks and snacks



There is also a place where you can get information about cancer called The Focus Centre

The staff in The Focus Centre are very friendly and will be happy to help you



If you leave the Waiting Room for any reason, you must tell the person at reception



Give the person at reception your mobile phone number

**Patient  
Information**

**1**

**Before you have Chemotherapy**

**Seeing the doctor or nurse**



They will call you when it is time to see the doctor or nurse before your Chemo



You will be called from the Waiting Room to see the doctor or nurse before your Chemo



Or they might phone you at home to ask how you are feeling

They want to make sure you are OK to have your Chemo



After your talk with doctor or nurse you will go back to the Waiting Room

**2**

**When you are having Chemotherapy**

**Having Chemo**



A nurse will come and get you from the Waiting room to have your Chemo



The nurse will take you to a room with a nice chair for you to sit on

Your carer can go with you



There might be other people in the room having Chemo



The nurse will put a small tube in the back of your hand

This will hurt a little bit but it is very important

**2**

**When you are having Chemotherapy**

**Checks before your Chemo**



The nurse will check your name, the date you were born and where you live



They might check your blood pressure by putting a band around your arm



The band will squeeze your arm and make a noise, but it should not hurt



The nurse will read your blood pressure off a small screen



**2**
**When you are having Chemotherapy**

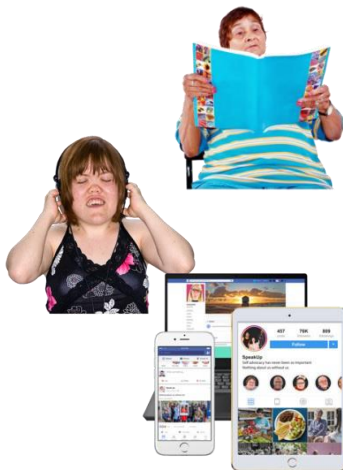

A nurse might check your temperature by putting a small machine in your ear

The machine will make a beep sound but will not hurt

**Having your Chemo**


The nurse will start giving you your Chemo through the tube in your hand.

This will not hurt



You can bring something to do while you are having your Chemo like

- a book or magazine to read
- music to listen to through headphones
- your mobile phone, a tablet or laptop computer

**2**

**When you are having Chemotherapy**



Your carer can stay with you when you are having your Chemo



Sometimes having Chemo can take a long time

**Eating and drinking while having Chemo**



You can eat and drink while you are having Chemo



Please bring food and drink in with you to have at any time



If you are having Chemo over lunchtime we will bring you some sandwiches

**2**

**When you are having Chemotherapy**

**Going to the toilet while having Chemo**



If you need the toilet tell the nurse

The nurse will tell you where to go and will help you if you need help

**Staying over night**



Sometimes you might have to stay in hospital for one night or more

The nurse will take you to your bed where you will have your Chemo



Talk to the nurse or doctor if you want your carer to stay with you

**3**

**After your Chemotherapy**

**When you have finished your Chemo**



The nurse will take the tube out of your hand. This should not hurt



The nurse will give you some tablets to take home



Then you can go home



You will get a letter in the post telling you when to come to hospital to have Chemo again

**3**

**After your Chemotherapy**

**At home**



You will feel very tired after your Chemo. Make sure you get lots of rest

You might want to rest in the daytime



Make sure you drink lots of water or squash. Try to have 8 drinks a day for a few days after your Chemo



Take the tablets the nurse gave you, these will help to stop you feeling sick

**3**

**After your Chemotherapy**

**What to do if you feel**



If you feel ill at any time during your Chemotherapy you can call us on the phone



You or your carer can call us at any time of the day or night



Our telephone number is **0300 422 3444**



We will ask some questions about how you are feeling on the telephone

We may ask you to come into hospital so we can help you feel better

## Patient Information



There are special nurses in the hospital called **Learning Disability Hospital Liaison Nurses**



The **Learning Disability Hospital Liaison Nurses** are here to support you when you come to hospital



If you or your carer want some more information you can call on the phone on **0300 422 4985**

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