

**Patient
Information**

**Hope for
Tomorrow**

Bringing cancer treatment closer to home

Mobile Cancer Care Unit (MCCU)

Bringing chemotherapy treatment closer to patients' homes

Introduction

This leaflet gives you information about the Mobile Cancer Care Unit (MCCU).

The MCCU is a purpose built vehicle with 4 recliner chairs and all the necessary equipment to provide Systemic Anti-Cancer Treatments (SACT). It is part of the Outpatients Cancer Service that runs from Cheltenham General Hospital.

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

The MCCU 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 MCCU?

This is dependent on the selected systemic anti-cancer therapy (SACT) that you are receiving. This will be discussed with you at your pre-treatment appointment with the nurse.

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

There may be further treatments in Cheltenham throughout your course of SACT. The MCCU gives you the option to have your treatment nearer home.

The MCCU 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.

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Department

Oncology

Review due

February 2024

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Please talk to your consultant, or a nurse if you would like to discuss having treatment on the MCCU. However, hospital transport is not available to take you to the MCCU for treatment.

There may be unforeseen circumstances such as the weather when the MCCU 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 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 MCCU you will be assessed in the Oncology Centre for your fitness to have treatment.

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

If your circumstances change and you have additional needs which cannot be met on the MCCU, 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 MCCU when you arrive. Due to space the nurses may ask you to wait in the hospital or your car until they are ready.

Hot drinks are available on the MCCU. You can bring refreshments for the visit if you would like.

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Can relatives stay with the patient on the MCCU?

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 MCCU?

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 Acute Haematology Oncology Unit Helpline (AHOU) for advice before attending the MCCU.

Acute Haematology Oncology Unit Helpline (AHOU)

Tel: 0300 422 3444 (24 hours)

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

Chemotherapy Booking Office

Cheltenham Oncology Centre

Tel: 0300 422 3366

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MCCU supported by:

Hope for Tomorrow

Tel: 01666 505 055

Registered charity no. 1094677

www.hopefortomorrow.org.uk