Cancer of Unknown Primary
Information about your care
This information leaflet has been designed to give you information about the people who will be involved in your care.

You will be looked after by the Cancer of Unknown Primary Multi-Disciplinary Team at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust. We hope that this leaflet will be a source of information and help to you.

The Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP) Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)

The Cancer of Unknown Primary Multi-Disciplinary Team is made up of a group of healthcare professionals who have a specialist interest, knowledge and expertise in the management of people with cancers of an unknown primary.

The team is made up of:

- Specialist Oncologists – Who specialise in cancer treatments such as chemotherapy or radiotherapy.

- Pathologists – Who examine samples such as biopsies to look for particular cancer cell types.

- Radiologists – Who perform and interpret x-rays, CT and PET scans and MRI scans.

- Nurse Practitioners – Who will offer you a point of contact, information and support.

- Dietitians – Who will support your health through food and nutrition.

- Multi-Disciplinary Co-ordinator – Who co-ordinates Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings and ‘tracks’ your care.
The MDT meeting

The MDT meets every Monday morning. Each patient’s case is discussed when they reach important points with their diagnosis and treatment. The MDT will discuss your case history, x-ray images and pathology results (from studying biopsies), together with any other relevant information. As a team, they will work out an appropriate plan for your treatment or care. This plan will be discussed with you either over the telephone, at an appointment in clinic or on the ward.

Advanced Nurse Practitioner or Specialist Nurse Practitioner with an interest in cancer of unknown primary.

Advanced Nurse Practitioners (previously known as Clinical Nurse Specialists) and Specialist Nurse Practitioners are senior nurses who work as core members of the Multi-Disciplinary Team. The Nurse Practitioner has specific knowledge and experience of patients with a cancer of unknown primary. They also have specialist knowledge of the treatments that you might be offered.

The Nurse Practitioner works closely with the Oncologist involved in your care. They are also able to put you in contact with other members of the team, such as the doctors, dietitians, palliative care team and other health professionals.

You will also be assigned a key-worker.
What is a key-worker?

Your key-worker will be your main point of contact with the hospital. Your key-worker is involved in co-ordinating your care. The role is often carried out by the Advanced or Specialist Nurse Practitioner, but if your needs change you may be supported by another member of the MDT.

The Nurse Practitioner attends the weekly Multi-Disciplinary Team meeting to discuss your care. They can act as a link for you to hear about what was discussed at the meeting.

How can we help?

Nurse Practitioners aim to offer you and your carers a point of contact for information, support and advice during any investigations, treatment and care.

They can offer and discuss information about:

• your diagnosis
• investigations and treatment options
• advice on physical and emotional symptoms
• any other issues, concerns or comments you may wish to raise
• links with doctors or other health care professionals.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Nurse Practitioners if you need advice about your condition or treatment.
How can you contact us?

The Nurse Practitioners can be contacted on the numbers listed below. You can either contact them by telephone (you may need to leave a message with the secretary or on the answerphone) or by using the hospital bleep system. This will send them your telephone number and they will call you back.

Churchill Hospital:
Tel: 01865 741 841 – please ask to Bleep 1977 or 5928
or leave a message on 01865 235 706

John Radcliffe Hospital:
Tel: 01865 746 611 – please ask to Bleep 4378
or leave a message on 01865 220 021
Further information

There are many ways of finding out information about cancer and possible treatments. People who are affected by cancer often need information to help them to make informed decisions about their condition, treatment and to help them plan for their future.

The Nurse Practitioners have access to a range of written national and local information leaflets. The Maggie’s Cancer Information Centre also provides valuable sources of information.

Information can be found on the internet, but should always be read in relation to what you have been told by your cancer specialists. Please feel welcome to discuss specific questions with your cancer specialist or Nurse Practitioner.

Information can also be provided by using an Information Prescription. An Information Prescription is a way of getting personalised information, more specific to your diagnosis, from the NHS Choices web-site. Search for “Information Prescription” on your internet browser.

Maggies Cancer Information Centre,
Churchill Hospital, Oxford

Tel: 01865 225 690
www.maggiescentres.org

Macmillan Cancer Support

Tel: 0808 808 2020  Living with cancer
Tel: 0808 800 1234  Cancer types and treatments
www.macmillan.org.uk

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Cancerlinks
www.cancerlinks.org.uk
www.oxfordcancerinfo.org.uk

Cancer of Unknown Primary Foundation
www.cupfoundjo.org

FREE PRESCRIPTIONS

ALL PATIENTS WITH A DIAGNOSIS OF CANCER ARE ENTITLED TO FREE PRESCRIPTIONS

(Please speak to your Doctor or Nurse Practitioner for details.)
If you have a specific requirement, need an interpreter, a document in Easy Read, another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call 01865 221 473 or email PALSJR@ouh.nhs.uk

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www.ouh.nhs.uk/patient-guide/leaflets/library.aspx