You have been recommended a course of treatment by your consultant.

When you come for your treatment you will be asked to reconfirm your consent to undergo treatment. This is to confirm nothing has happened since your initial consent which would affect your decision to have treatment.

It is very important that we know if you are pregnant before you start any of these treatments, as they can cause severe harm to an unborn baby. If you are pregnant, this won’t necessarily mean you can’t have treatment, but we would need to take this into account very carefully.

If you are aged from 12 to 55 (inclusive) you will be asked to take a urine pregnancy test, unless you have had a hysterectomy or sterilisation. We will need to know the results of this test before any course of treatment is planned or given.

If you decline to take a pregnancy test when asked, we will not be able to begin your treatment. You will be referred back to your consultant for further discussion.
Contraception

It is very important to use effective contraception both during and for 6 months after these treatments, to avoid becoming pregnant, as they might harm a developing baby. Your Oncologist or nurse will be able to give you more advice about reliable contraception.

It’s usually better to use barrier methods, such as condoms, the cap or the coil. If you have had breast cancer you should discuss with your Oncologist whether you can safely use a hormonal coil. Treatment side effects, such as sickness and diarrhoea, can make the contraceptive pill less effective. If you are taking this, you need to check with your Oncologist that it is safe to continue using it.

Chemotherapy or tamoxifen can stop your periods. If this happens, you should still continue to use contraceptives, as although you have no periods, this does not mean the menopause is complete. You may still be releasing eggs and your periods may restart after your treatment is complete. Please discuss this further with your Oncologist.

How to contact us

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to the Oncologist giving you this leaflet, or a nurse or radiographer when you come to your appointment.

You can also telephone us:

Oncology Day Treatment Unit: 01865 235 558
Haematology Day Treatment Unit: 01865 235 554
Radiotherapy: 01865 235 472
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 PALS@ouh.nhs.uk

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