

## **Student Placement information**

### **Haematology and Oncology Day Treatment Unit (DTU), Churchill Hospital**

#### **Welcome to the area**

On DTU we care for patients from both haematology and oncology groups. Patients are fit enough to have their treatment in the outpatient setting.

We welcome students to the unit and give them the opportunity to see and do as much as they are able to during their placement. We can provide learning opportunities relevant to the level of training. Previous students to the area have enjoyed their placements and found the DTU team to be friendly and supportive.

#### **Contacting the placement**

Please contact the placement at least two weeks before you are due to start.

#### **Key people to contact**

- Liz Mellish – Oncology Sister
- Jane Burke – Haematology Sister
- Emma Shaw – Clinical Educator

#### **Information about your placement**

Chemotherapy and the supportive treatments are delivered on DTU with patients receiving treatment either on a bed or comfortable recliner chair. Chemotherapy is administered via the intravenous route most commonly.

However, an increasing number of patients have chemotherapy administered as an injection or orally. Chemotherapy treatments often involve more than one drug so a patient may have intravenous chemotherapy given on certain days of their treatment cycle and take oral chemotherapy at home too.

#### **Key learning opportunities during the placement**

DTU is organised so that haematology and oncology patients receive their treatment on different parts of the unit. Oncology patients generally attend for chemotherapy only and haematology patients receive a range of treatments including chemotherapy, blood and platelet support, intrathecal chemotherapy (given as an injection into the spine), donor lymphocyte Infusions (DLI), venesections and management of central lines (PICC, Hickman and apheresis lines) and on occasions red cell exchange for sickle cell patients.

The unit supports patients who are at different stages of their treatment from those who are having first line treatment, subsequent treatment for relapsed disease, and those patients receiving palliative treatment. In the oncology setting patients receive chemotherapy before or after surgery and many patients are also treated with radiotherapy, which is given in an adjacent part of the Churchill Hospital. Haematology patients may have their treatment partly on DTU and partly on the

Haematology Ward as some treatment needs to be given as an inpatient, such as more intensive chemotherapy or Bone Marrow Transplant.

### **Key spoke placements include the following areas**

- Oncology Ward
- Haematology Ward
- Triage Assessment Unit
- Research teams (both early and late phase for haematology and oncology)
- Bone marrow biopsy team
- Clinics including Bone Marrow Transplant clinic and those for other haematology and oncology patient groups (there are clinics for all tumour sites, lymphoma clinic, haematology new patient clinic).
- Dietitian
- Maggie's Centre, where cancer-affected patients find help and support.

### **DTU working hours**

DTU is open Monday to Friday 08:00 - 19:00. The unit is also open on Saturdays 08:00 - 16:00.

The unit is closed on Sundays and Bank Holidays

On Saturdays the patient numbers are lower and selected treatments are offered; there is no allocated medical cover directly on the unit at the weekend. Treatments offered are those which are nurse led such as venesections and blood transfusions or for carefully selected chemotherapy treatments.

### **Interdisciplinary learning**

DTU can support students on adult nursing programmes (both pre and post registration), pharmacy students and medical students.

### **Local education programmes**

Teaching on the unit is delivered either via the department Monday morning meeting which takes place at 09:00 each week.

Further teaching and updates on clinical competencies are arranged as required and delivered on the unit in small groups to enable teaching to fit around clinical care.

### **Useful reading for the placement**

The [Bloodwise website](#) gives a clear introduction to Haematology. Also available on the website is an online free training module aimed at new starters for Haematology. The user will need to register an email to access course.

The [Oncology Nursing Society](#) website provides information on courses, study days, webinars and resources about cancer treatments, radiotherapy and all aspects of haemato-oncology treatment. It is possible to sign up to become a member to access the full range of information as well as regular updated on future events.