



Oxford University Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Day Treatment Unit (DTU)

Information for patients,  
family and friends



Cancer and  
Haematology Centre

## Day Treatment Unit (DTU)

Cancer & Haematology Centre  
Level 0  
Churchill Hospital  
Old Road,  
Headington  
Oxford OX3 7LE

## Useful Contacts

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Churchill Hospital Outpatient Department<br>Reception: .....                            | 01865 235 566 |
| Haematology Day Treatment Area: .....<br>8.00am - 7.00pm weekdays                       | 01865 235 554 |
| Oncology Day Treatment Area: .....<br>8.00am - 7.00pm weekdays                          | 01865 235 558 |
| Haematology Ward: .....   | 01865 235 048 |
| Oncology Ward: .....  | 01865 235 012 |
| Oxford Triage Assessment Team: .....<br>24 hours / seven days a week                    | 01865 572 192 |
| Churchill Hospital switchboard: .....   | 01865 741 841 |
| If you have any worries or concerns about<br>your care please contact our Matron: ..... | 01865 234 964 |

# Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Day Treatment Unit (DTU)                     | 5  |
| Your Appointment                             | 6  |
| Our Team                                     | 7  |
| Getting to the Cancer and Haematology Centre | 9  |
| What to bring                                | 11 |
| Systemic Anti-cancer treatment (SACT)        | 12 |
| • Chemotherapy                               | 12 |
| • Immunotherapy                              | 12 |
| • Targeted cancer drugs                      | 13 |
| • Hormone therapy                            | 13 |
| Fertility and contraception                  | 14 |
| Your treatment                               | 15 |
| After treatment                              | 16 |
| Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme               | 17 |
| Further Support & Information                | 18 |
| Charitable Funds                             | 19 |

For more information about  
the Churchill Hospital visit  
**[www.ouh.nhs.uk/hospitals](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/hospitals)**.

For updated guidance about  
our hospitals and COVID-19  
please visit  
**[www.ouh.nhs.uk/covid-19](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/covid-19)**



## Day Treatment Unit (DTU)

Most patients attending the Day Treatment Unit (DTU) receive systemic anti-cancer treatment (SACT), blood products or other drugs to control a symptom they are having. Your doctors will have discussed the reason for your visit with you at your outpatient appointment, or at your discharge from the ward.

The large open plan area is divided into Haematology Day Treatment and Oncology Day Treatment areas. There are 12 beds and 30 chairs in the department. Your nurse will decide if a bed or a chair is best for your treatment.

You may be treated in a bed or chair next to a member of the opposite sex.

If you have any concerns about this, or find it difficult to talk openly about personal issues because of the open-plan setting, please let us know.



### Our commitment to you

*We aim to provide the highest standard of care and support your decision-making about your treatment. We will respect your dignity at all times, and do our best to accommodate your personal preferences.*





## Your appointment

A member of the Day Treatment Unit administration team will call or write to you to book in your appointment date/s for treatment. If you have any queries please call us.

- Oncology: **01865 235 558**
- Haematology: **01865 235 554**

We do our best to keep to your appointment time but there are unavoidable delays – we will keep you updated. Please do not come early as it is very unlikely we will be able to treat you before your appointment time.

## Our team

- Ward Sister
- Deputy Sister
- Specialist Nurse / Research Nurse
- Clinical Educator
- Chemotherapy Nurse
- Student Nurse
- Senior Nursing Assistant
- Housekeeper

The Unit is led by two Ward Sisters and staffed by Nurses and Senior Nursing Assistants who are specially trained in all aspects of your care, including giving chemotherapy, taking blood, and close monitoring during your treatment. They play a vital role in the delivery of your treatment and also provide you with support, advice and information.

Our support team is very large and includes administration staff and housekeepers, all of whom are dedicated to supporting patients and their families whilst they are receiving treatment.



Other professionals who support our patients are:

## **Doctors**

The specialist Doctor managing your treatment is called a Consultant Oncologist or Haematologist. They supervise a team of doctors which includes Specialist Registrars, and are responsible for prescribing and supervising your course of treatment and requesting specific procedures and tests. You may see the Oncologist/ Haematologist or Specialist Registrar before, during or after your course of treatment in the Outpatient Department, so that your progress can be monitored.

## **Pharmacists**

The Pharmacists check all the treatment prescriptions and make sure you have the correct dose. They also see you in the Unit on your day of treatment to discuss your medication. They will ensure you have enough medication to prevent or manage side effects that you may experience during your treatment.

## **Research**

World class research is carried out in all our hospitals. During your visit, we may tell you about clinical trials and research studies that we feel would be suitable for you. We will discuss these in detail with you so you can make an informed decision about whether to take part. You do not have to take part in research if you do not want to.

## **Blood tests**

24-72 hours before starting your treatment you will need to have a blood test. The consultant or specialist nurse will give you the necessary forms when you see them at your outpatient appointment. You can have the blood test at your local GP surgery or at the Churchill Hospital phlebotomy service.

# Getting to the Cancer and Haematology Centre

## Driving yourself to DTU

We recommend that you don't drive yourself for your first treatment, but after that you may do so if you feel well.

## Visitors to DTU

We are happy for you to bring a relative or friend with you. Sometimes relatives will be asked to wait in the waiting area.

## How to find us

Use the main Churchill Hospital entrance into the Cancer (Oncology) and Haematology Centre on Level 0, past the café and shops. Go straight along the corridor and turn left following the signs for the Cancer and Haematology Outpatient Department. DTU is inside the Outpatient Department.



## For Haematology Day Treatment Area

Enter DTU, continue ahead and it is the first desk you come to.

## For Oncology Day Treatment Area

Enter DTU, take an immediate left, through the doors and continue through the second set of doors. Turn left and continue to desk (signs will guide you).

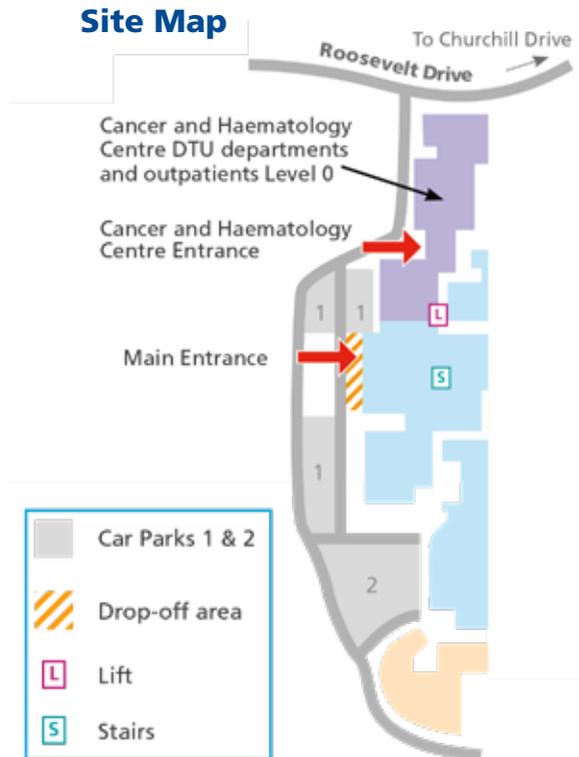
## Parking

**Parking space is very limited and there is no on-street parking nearby.** If you have no alternative, please allow at least one hour to find a space.

Car Parks 1 and 2 are closest. Patients who have to attend regularly and frequently over an extended period are entitled to a parking permit free of charge. The permit allows parking in staff car parks and should be displayed in the front of the vehicle. You can see the car parks on the hospital site maps. Permit request forms are available from the nursing staff.

For more information please call the Car Parking Office:  
Tel: **01865 225 466**.

- Monday to Friday  
8.00am - 7.00pm
- Saturday  
8.00am - 4.00pm



# What to bring

## **ESSENTIALS**

### **Medicines**

Please bring a list of any medicines you are taking, whether prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines bought from a supermarket or pharmacy or herbal remedies bought from a health shop.

### **Consent form**

Please bring your copy of the consent form you signed at your consultant appointment. The nurses must see this before they can treat you.

## **NON-ESSENTIALS**

### **Entertainment**

Bring something with you to help you pass the time, such as a book or laptop. We offer free WiFi, 'OUH-GUEST'. You may use your mobile phone but please set it to 'silent' and respect others' need for quiet.

### **Food and drink**

We have a trolley for tea, coffee and water – please ask a member of staff.

If you are with us most of the day, we have a lunch trolley with a selection of sandwiches, fruit and cakes. This is for patients only.

If you have special dietary requirements, it is best that you bring in your own food and drink, as we may not be able to cater for you. All patients are welcome to bring their own food, but please do not bring in hot food, as the smell may make other patients feel sick. We do not have facilities to heat up food.

# **Systemic Anti-Cancer Treatment (SACT)**

There are many different types of cancer drugs. The type of treatment you need depends on

- the type of cancer
- what the cancer cells look like under a microscope
- changes in the genes
- whether the cancer has spread
- your general health.

How you have your SACT depends on the type of medicine you are having and your type of cancer.

On your first day with us we will go through your treatment, and any side-effects you may experience, and answer any questions you may have.

## **Chemotherapy**

Chemotherapy is the use of drugs to kill cancer cells. The drugs are given as injections or via a drip into the bloodstream (intravenously) with an infusion pump, in a tablet that is swallowed or as an injection under the skin. Either one drug or a combination of drugs is used.

Chemotherapy drugs kill cancer cells that are in the process of splitting into two cells. The drugs circulate throughout the whole body killing cancer cells almost anywhere.

## **Immunotherapy**

Immunotherapy helps the patient's immune system recognise and attack cancer cells. Different types of immunotherapy work in slightly different ways. The drug needed depends on the type of cancer. Immunotherapy drugs are given via a drip into the bloodstream or as an injection under the skin.

## **Targeted cancer drugs**

Targeted cancer drugs 'target' the differences in cancer cells that help them survive and grow. There are different types of targeted treatments. The type needed depends on the cancer as well as the changes in the cell.

## **Hormone therapy**

Hormone therapy blocks or lowers the amount of hormones in the body to stop or slow down the growth of cancer. You have hormone therapy as a tablet or as an injection into your muscle or under your skin.

There are several ways of getting the drugs directly into your bloodstream:

- **Cannula**  
a tube inserted into a vein; this is removed at the end of each visit.
- **Peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC)**  
a long line inserted through the arm into a large vein in the chest; this remains in for the duration of treatment.
- **Portacath**  
a surgically-implanted device which provides direct access to a central vein; this needs to be surgically removed.

## Fertility and contraception

Some treatment options affect fertility: this may be temporary or permanent. Not all treatments affect fertility. Please speak to your consultant or specialist nurse if you are concerned about this.

In some cases men are able to store sperm before starting treatment, and women may be able to store embryos or eggs.

**You must not be pregnant during treatment:** the drugs could harm a developing baby.

Please tell a member of staff if you think you could be pregnant: we will ask all our female patients to have a pregnancy test before their first course of treatment.

Always use reliable contraception: how long you should continue using contraception depends on the treatment you are having. Please check this with your consultant or specialist nurse.

## Your treatment

Each time you visit we will assess you to see how you have been since your last treatment. Sometimes we will do this assessment by telephone the day before your visit. Please tell us if you are experiencing any side-effects, so we can monitor your progress.

If your blood tests or side-effects indicate that you need a longer recovery time, it may be necessary to delay your treatment briefly. If so, we will keep you fully informed and give you a new appointment time before you leave.

We will let you know how long you can expect your treatment to take: some treatments are quite quick and others can take many hours. We need time to review your blood test results, check your prescription and read your clinic letter and relevant medical history, as well as time to administer the drugs. These things are essential to ensure that you receive your treatment safely. We do our best to keep you informed, but if you are concerned about any delay please speak to a member of the team.



## After treatment

We can give you medicine to help control side-effects. A pharmacist will explain how and when to take these.

Before you leave, please ensure you have the details of your next appointment, blood test forms for your GP and your medicines to take home.

### Feeling unwell

If you feel unwell after your treatment, please call the Triage Team.  
Tel: **01865 572192**.

After a telephone assessment the team will either provide advice or ask you to come into hospital to see a doctor.

On your first visit to DTU we will give you a thermometer. The Triage Team will ask you what your temperature is, so you should take your temperature before you call.



## **SUPPORT**

### **Macmillan Cancer Support Line**

For answers, support or just a chat, call the national Macmillan Cancer Support Line and speak to a cancer support specialist in confidence.

Tel: **0808 808 0000** (free number)  
Monday to Friday 9.00am - 8.00pm.

### **Chaplaincy**

Our 24 hour Chaplaincy service supports patients and relatives of all faiths and none. Please ask a member of staff if you wish to contact a Chaplain during your visit.

### **Feedback**

We will ask for your feedback about your experience on our unit. Please raise any concerns you may have with staff at the time, and ask to speak to the Sister or Deputy who will be happy to listen and resolve any issues wherever possible, or contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01865 221 473.

## **Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme**

Patients on certain benefits may claim all or part of the cost of travel to and from hospital. Please ask your nurse for a leaflet or visit [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)

## Further support and information

There are booklets around the Day Treatment Unit for you or your family to take away and read. Please also look at our notice boards for details of additional support.

### **Maggie's Centre, Churchill Hospital**

Tel: **01865 225 690**

Website: **[www.maggiescentres.org](http://www.maggiescentres.org)**

Maggie's Centre provides information and support to address every aspect of living with cancer – from the practicalities of claiming benefits, to the physical and emotional effects that people might be experiencing. No appointment necessary, just pop in for a cup of tea.

Monday to Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm

### **Carers Oxfordshire**

Tel: **0845 050 7666**

Website: **[www.carersoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.carersoxfordshire.org.uk)**

Carers Oxfordshire listens to carers and provides information and advice. It also aims to help carers get the support they may need.

### **Macmillan Cancer Support**

Website: **[www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)**

Macmillan Cancer Support is a UK charity supporting people with cancer and their families with specialist information, treatment and care.

### **Macmillan Support Line**

Tel: **0808 808 0000**

Call for answers, support or just a chat.

Monday to Friday, 9.00am - 8.00pm (Free call)

### **Cancer Research UK**

Website: **[www.cancerresearchuk.org](http://www.cancerresearchuk.org)**

Cancer Research UK provides patients and health professionals with information on lifestyle, cancer and current research.



## **Charitable donations**

We are always grateful for donations to our Cancer and Haematology DTU Charitable Fund, part of Oxford Hospitals Charity. Donations make a huge difference to our patients, their families and visitors.

Recent improvements include electric armchairs and artwork around the area. We have also refurbished two patient interview rooms in the Outpatient Department.

For more details please visit  
[www.hospitalcharity.co.uk](http://www.hospitalcharity.co.uk)

## Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

Author: Emma Goodwin and Alice James  
April 2021  
Review: April 2024  
Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
[www.ouh.nhs.uk/information](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/information)



*Making a difference across our hospitals*

charity@ouh.nhs.uk | 01865 743 444 | [hospitalcharity.co.uk](http://hospitalcharity.co.uk)

OXFORD HOSPITALS CHARITY (REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1175809)

