How can I help reduce healthcare associated infections?

Infection control is important to the well-being of our patients and for that reason we have infection control procedures in place. Keeping your hands clean is an effective way of preventing the spread of infections. We ask that you, and anyone visiting you, use the hand rub (special gel) available at the main entrance of the hospital and at the entrance to every ward before coming in to and after leaving the ward or hospital. In some situations hands may need to be washed at the sink using soap and water rather than using the hand rub. Staff will let you know if this is the case.

Author: Research team
Issue date: May 2010
Reviewed date: May 2014
Review date: May 2016
Leaflet code: CISS - 18
Version: 3

If you require an interpreter or need a document in another language, large print, Braille or audio version please ask for assistance.

www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk
Understanding cancer research trials

What are clinical trials?

Clinical trials are medical research trials involving patients. They are carried out to try and find new and better treatments. Carrying out clinical trials is the only sure way to find out if a new approach to cancer care is better than the standard treatments currently used.

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust runs Screening, Genetics, Epidemiological studies and Randomised Controlled trials in cancer and haematology.

New cancer drugs are first tested in the laboratory before they are given to people in trials. If it seems that they may be helpful in the treatment of a particular cancer they are tested for safety in a few patients in phase 1 trials. If these are successful the drug is further tested in more patients in phase 2 trials and then compared to other treatments in phase 3. Drugs that are licensed may be further assessed in phase 4 trials.

Here at Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust we mostly run phase 3 clinical trials.

What are phase 3 trials?

These are large and may include hundreds, or sometimes thousands, of patients from many different hospitals.

Researchers can measure various aspects, such as:

- How long patients stay free of cancer.
- The number of people who are alive, with or without signs of cancer.
- Whether the cancer grows more slowly.
- How the treatment affects patients’ quality of life.

Phase 3 trials always involve randomisation.

What is randomisation?

This means that a computer randomly puts patients into the treatment groups in the trial. Each group has a similar mix of patients of different ages, sex, and state of health. This ensures the members of each group can be matched so that both groups are similar. If one group does better than the other group, it is likely to be because of the treatment, as the two groups are the same.

What people ask us

Are trials safe?

Thousands of people take part in a large number of clinical trials in the UK every year. Rigorous processes, including review by an NHS Research Ethics Committee, are in place to protect the rights, dignity, safety and well-being of participants.

No one can include you in a clinical trial without asking you. A doctor, nurse or other researcher will ask your permission and they cannot enter you into the trial if you do not give your consent.

What do I do if I want to take part in a Cancer or Haematology trial?

If you would like to take part in a clinical trial you should discuss this with the doctor in charge of your care, who will have the information on trials that are currently being run in Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust.

Entrance into a clinical trial will depend on whether you meet the trial’s eligibility criteria.