

Macmillan Cancer Support
0808 808 00 00 www.macmillan.org.uk

Cancer Research UK
(Supporter Services) 020 7121 6699
(Switchboard) 020 7242 0200 www.cancerresearchuk.org

British Association of Dermatologists www.bad.org.uk

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
Cancer Education, Information and Support Service
01296 316954

Free Prescriptions

All cancer patients undergoing treatment for cancer, the effects of cancer or the effects of cancer treatment can apply for an exemption certificate for a free prescription from their GP.

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.

www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk

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Buckinghamshire Healthcare
NHS Trust

The Skin Cancer Team

Patient Information Leaflet

If you require a translation or an alternative format for this leaflet please ask for assistance.

Safe & compassionate care,

every time

Introduction

This leaflet will help you to understand more about the services available.

During your outpatient appointment the doctor will have reviewed your condition and symptoms. You may also have undergone some tests.

All the healthcare professionals involved in your treatment will meet as a specialist multidisciplinary team to agree a treatment plan for you.

The team meet weekly to discuss the results and will propose a treatment plan following national guidelines.

Every team works by following national guidelines on how they should work with you, each other, your GP and other specialist services.

Who are the team members and what are their roles?

Dermatology team

This team are experts in skin conditions including skin cancers. They also diagnose and treat diseases of the hair and nails.

Plastic surgery team

You may not see a member of the dermatology team first but be referred directly to the plastic surgery team who can offer expert assessment for more complex surgical procedures such as reconstruction and surgical investigation.

Oncology team

This team can offer you treatment such as radiotherapy or chemotherapy.

Skin Cancer Nurse Specialist (CNS)/ Key worker

The specialist nurse will be there to support you from the time of diagnosis and during your treatment. At each stage of your treatment the nurse will give you relevant information about the different treatments you can have so that together with the doctors and nurses you can make informed choices about your care.

The nurse can also offer practical help and information about any aspect of your illness or treatment and act as a link between you and your local healthcare team and the hospital.

Histopathology team

This team will look at any tissue samples (biopsies) that may be taken from you. They will be able to confirm what type of cancer that you have.

Radiology team

This team will look at any x-rays/ scans that you may have undergone and this information will help the team to plan the best treatment for you.

The multidisciplinary team (MDT)

The MDT co-ordinator will plan the MDT meetings making sure that your medical records and any other vital information is available for the team.

The skin cancer MDT will follow your progress once your treatment has been completed.

Once the team are happy with your progress your care will be passed back to your GP for follow-up.

Your GP will be happy to refer you back to the skin cancer team for any further support in the future.

You may also need help from other healthcare professionals such as dietitians and physiotherapists. Your team will make referrals to these specialities as needed.

Dermatology and plastic surgery nurses

These nurses are there to give you advice and support. They have expertise in skin cancer treatments, and care of wounds.

Research Team

This team may contact you to take part in an ongoing research trial if appropriate.

If you require further information, advice and support you can contact the skin cancer nurse specialist on the following numbers:

01296 316079 Stoke Mandeville (answer phone)

or

01296 315000 switchboard at Stoke Mandeville Hospital and ask for the skin cancer nurse specialist