

Multi-Disciplinary Team

Patient Information

Breast Care Service



The Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website is available on the link:
<https://www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets> or scan the QR code.

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Your healthcare team

Diagnosis and treatment of cancer requires a team of experts called a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT). The team is made up of people with different skills and training but who are all cancer experts. The team includes specialists who understand cancers, what they look like, how they behave, what cancer cells look like under the microscope, how and when to test for cancer, how to treat it and how it may affect your life. There are lots of people in the MDT. All of them play a part in supporting you and your family during and after your treatment.

You come first

To make sure you are the one who benefits, everyone in the Multi-Disciplinary Team meets on a regular basis. Your case will be discussed to ensure that all appropriate choices for treatment for you are considered. When you have choices, they will be explained, and verbal and written information will be available to you to support any decision you are making.

Some of the team that you may meet may include the following:

The Breast Surgeon

This is a specialist who can assess breast problems and diagnose primary and recurrent breast cancer. Once your condition has been diagnosed, the surgeon will discuss with you the different options for treatment, will carry out any operations needed to remove cancer and any reconstruction procedures that may be relevant. Your breast surgeon will also discuss the results of surgery.

Registrar

This is a senior doctor who has chosen to specialise in an area of care and is getting specialist training in that area.

The Breast Care Nurse Specialist

This is a nurse who is an expert in the care and support of people with breast problems. The Breast Care Nurse will provide information to help you to understand your treatment and will support you during your future treatment. She will advise you on practical issues and help with problems associated with your treatment. She can talk to other members of the Multi-Disciplinary Team on your behalf if you wish and will guide you through your continuing follow-up care.

The Radiologist

This is a doctor who is specially trained to interpret x-rays, mammograms, and special scans from which a diagnosis is made, and who is an expert in carrying out diagnostic tests.

Diagnostic Radiographer

This is a radiographer who is skilled in the use of a range of x-ray, ultrasound, and mammography equipment to produce images/pictures, which help to diagnose disease.

The Pathologist

This is a doctor who is an expert in looking at cancer cells under a microscope and working out how they might behave to guide decisions on treatment.

The Oncologist

This is a doctor who is an expert on non-surgical treatments for your type of cancer.

A clinical oncologist specialises particularly in radiotherapy but may also have experience in chemotherapy and hormone therapy.

A medical oncologist specialises in chemotherapy and hormone therapy.

Research Nurse

This nurse identifies patients who are eligible for research studies, provides patients and their families with information about research, co-ordinates treatment and supports patients whilst they are taking part.

Therapy Radiographer

This is a skilled radiographer who organises and gives radiotherapy treatment, working closely with the clinical oncologist.

Any questions?

If you are worried about something or do not understand something you have heard, your Breast Care Nurse is there to help. Your Breast Care Nurse is available 8:30 am to 4:00 pm Monday to Friday and can be contacted on 01942 774720. When the nurse is in outpatient clinics or on the wards an answering machine is switched on. All messages will be responded to as quickly as possible.

Additional information

At some point during your treatment, you may need to visit a Cancer Treatment Centre which may be the Christie Hospital in Manchester, The Christie at Salford Royal, Oldham Hospital, Clatterbridge Hospital on the Wirral, Clatterbridge at Aintree; Fazackerley or Preston, depending mainly on where you live. Radiotherapy can only be given in these hospitals.

Some cancer treatments, including standard forms of chemotherapy can be administered locally on the Cancer Care Suite at Wigan Infirmary. **If being treated locally is important to you, please discuss this with your medical oncologist** (or ask the Breast Care Nurse to do so) as this may affect the treatments which can be offered. Wherever is the most suitable place for you to receive your treatment, will be discussed with you fully in relation to your condition, clinical trials and of course, your wishes.

Other information:

Breakthrough Breast Cancer Telephone 08080 100 200
www.breakthrough.org.uk

Macmillan Cancer Relief

Telephone Helpline Free: 0808 808 2020, Monday to Friday 9am until 9pm.
Web Site Address: www.macmillan.org.uk

Breast Cancer Care

Telephone Helpline Free: 0808 800 6000
Web Site Address: www.breastcancercare.org.uk

Your Key Worker is:

Contact Number:

Please use this space to write notes or reminders.

Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends, and carers.

Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am until 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary
Wigan Lane
Wigan
WN1 2NN

Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the positives and negatives of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use, and store the information we hold about you, please see patient information leaflet, Ref. **Corp 006** How we use your information, this can be found on the Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website, see details on the front cover.

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille, and other languages upon request. For more information, please ask in the department/ward.

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