

Acute oncology and haematology assessment unit

The unit is located temporarily on Level 9 of the renal unit in the Haematology day unit, the service is open EVERYDAY 8am-8pm and will be managing the telephone helpline during these hours.

Below is the criteria that patients can attend with and exclusion. Please use the Acute oncology referral form on Panda or call the unit on ext 63249. This service is to avoid our patient group attending A+E where possible, if deemed unstable through telephone assessment usual procedure via A+E will be expected.

This service is not for inpatients please bleep the on call team on 8036 for inpatient.

Inclusion criteria

1. Any patient who has received systemic therapy (chemotherapy, immunotherapy, targeted agents) for cancer (excluding hormonal therapy) in the last 8 weeks
2. Any patient who has received radiotherapy in the last 8 weeks
3. Complications from underlying cancer including:
 - Clinically suspected Metastatic spinal cord compression
 - Clinically suspected new brain metastases
 - Hypercalcaemia
 - Superior vena cava obstruction
 - Malignant Pleural effusion
 - Malignant Ascites
 - Pulmonary embolism
 - Uncontrolled cancer symptoms (e.g. pain, nausea, vomiting)
4. Complications from cancer treatment:
 - Immunotherapy toxicities, including administration of daily IV methylprednisolone
 - Nausea and vomiting
 - Diarrhoea (please assess as poor toilet facilities)
 - AKI
 - Constipation
 - Anaemia
 - Thrombocytopenia
 - Radiotherapy-related complications (e.g. diarrhoea, mucositis)
 - Complications of central venous access
5. Independent or has carer present to assist with personal needs
6. Not confused unless with a carer/family member who will stay for the duration of their AOS attendance.

Exclusion criteria for patients referred to the AOS unit:

1. Suspected COVID-19 symptoms, including fever or cough
2. Haemodynamically unstable or hypoxic requiring immediate medical attention
3. Patients requiring cardiac monitoring
4. Non-cancer/non-treatment related conditions e.g. falls, acute chest pain or bleeding. These patients will continue to attend local Emergency Departments.
5. Requires intense level of nursing supervision for confusion or personal care

Patients presenting with suspected neutropenic sepsis

The majority of patients with suspected neutropenic sepsis will present with a fever. In order to maintain the AOS unit as a designated Green zone, all Oncology patients with fever should be assessed in A&E department side rooms. A&E should follow their current neutropenic sepsis pathway, ensuring IV antibiotics within 1h and simultaneously