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Paediatric Oncology
Shared care Unit

Information for patients, carers and family

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Introduction

The Royal Alexandra Hospital provides a POSCU service (Paediatric Oncology Shared Care Unit) to local children with cancer. Your care could be shared with one of the following PTCs (primary treatment centres)-The Royal Marsden Hospital at Sutton, Great Ormond Street Hospital, University College London Hospital and Southampton General Hospital. All children with cancer will have a PTC co-ordinating their care and any local treatment will be provided at the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital POSCU.

About the POSCU

The POSCU is located on the Oncology Day Care on level 9 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. The oncology service provides high quality care for children and young people with cancer who require in-patient and out-patient treatment, including chemotherapy. This care is provided in partnership with the child/young person and their family or carers. The Day Unit includes a designated area for children and young people with cancer admitted for day case treatment, as well as designated isolation rooms for in-patient care. Children and young people may be admitted to the ward from Brighton and Hove and the wider Sussex area and where care needs may not be able to be met more locally.

PTC (Primary Treatment Centre)

Patient's care and treatment plan will be decided and co-ordinated at a designated PTC according to the specific type of cancer. Diagnosis and start of treatment will commence at the PTC. Investigations and outpatient appointments can take place at the PTC or the local POSCU, depending on the treatment plan. The PTC and POSCU liaise daily to co-ordinate patient care. If the patient requires a surgical procedure as part of their treatment, this will usually be carried out at the PTC, although some procedures can be performed at the POSCU.

What the POSCU do?

We provide some of your treatment and care locally, such as:

- Administration of chemotherapy
- Treatment of febrile neutropenia and other acute illness
- Blood and platelet transfusions
- Palliative care.

Community Nurses

We have two community nurses who will visit the patient at home or school. They aim to help the family come to terms with the diagnosis and maintain normal family life as much as possible by carrying out care at home.

Nurse Key Worker

Each patient starting treatment for cancer will be allocated a Key Worker. This will be a Specialist Nurse that you will be able to contact for support and advice.

MDT (Multidisciplinary team)

The multidisciplinary team meet on a weekly basis and consist of clinicians, nurses, MDT Co-ordinator, psychologist and other health professionals involved in paediatric oncology care. Each patient's treatment plan is discussed weekly to ensure the most effective treatment and care for each individual is met. Any decisions made from the meeting are discussed with the patients, parents/carers by the consultant or Nurse. We also video conference to the PTC's weekly MDT meetings to ensure best co-ordination of patient care.

The POSCU Team

Oncology Consultants:

Anne Davidson
Catherine Wynne
Angela Gilbert

Nurse Specialists (Key Workers):

Nicola Huxter
Claire Wilson

Day Unit Nurses:

Amanda Clark
Jane Fellingham

Community Nurses:

**Karen Bashford
Gemma Maynard**

Psychologist:

Alice Emond

MDT Co-ordinator:

Colette Chitty

Late Effects Nurse Specialist:

Sophie McGoldrick

Pharmacists

Play Specialists

When should I call the POSCU?

- If you are ever worried about your child's health relating to their cancer.
- If your child has a temperature of 38°C and above.
If your child feels unwell without a temperature.
- If you have any concerns about your child's treatment given at RAH.
- If you need any support for your child or family.

Directory POSCU Royal Alexandra Hospital

Oncology Day Unit (9am-5pm)	For advice, support and emergencies	Tel: 01273 696955 Ext. 2433
Level 9 Inpatient Ward (24 hours)	Non-emergency For admissions, out of hours emergencies and support	Email: Bsutr.cawthorneward@ nhs.net Tel: 01273 696955 Ext: 2416
Nicola Huxter, Nurse Specialist.	For advice and support between 9am-5pm	Mob: 07920 251 753 Tel: 01273 696955 Ext: 2424

Claire Wilson Nurse Specialist	For advice and support between 9am-5pm	Mob: 07876 562 871 Tel: 01273 696955 Ext. 2425
Karen Bashford, Community Nurse	For appointments and support in the community 9am-5pm, Mon-Weds	Tel: 07810 550 431 Tel: 01273 696955 Ext. 2433
Gemma Maynard Community Nurse	For appointments and support in the community 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri	Mob: 07917 751 627 Tel: 01273 696955 Ext. 2433
Alice Emond Psychologist	For psychological support for children and families	Tel: 01273 696955 Ext. 2424
Palliative Care Team For complex problems please contact the palliative care team at the PTC.	9am-5pm advice 5pm-9am advice	Tel: 01273 696955 Ext. 2433 Tel 01273 696955 Ext. 2416
Paediatric Dietician	For nutritional advice and support 9am-5pm	Tel: 01273 696955 Ext. 2389

Primary Treatment Centres:

Royal Marsden Hospital	McElwain Ward	Tel: 020 8661 3601
Great Ormond Street	Safari Day ward	Tel: 020 7829 8832
University Hospital London	T11 (under 12 year-olds) and T12 (13 to 18 year-olds)	Tel: 020 3447 1100 Tel: 020 3447 1200
Southampton General Hospital	Piam Brown Ward	Tel: 023 8120 4816

Facilities (Day Unit)

The day unit is where you would come for day time treatments. We have a 4 bed ward with seating for family. We also have a children's playroom, sitting room with TV and a teenager's room with a sofa and T.V with games such as play station, table football and air hockey. There is free WiFi access throughout the hospital. A kitchen is available for patients and family to use including a microwave and fridge freezer for families who would prefer their own food. (Also see restaurants below).

Facilities (Ward)

After 5pm any admissions would be referred to the in-patient ward. All oncology patients will be admitted to a cubicle with en-suite shower room. A bed is available in each room for a parent to stay. Food will be provided for patients but not family, although a parent / family kitchen is available.

Restaurants

Waves Restaurant is located just outside of the main entrance to the Royal Alexandra Hospital. Waves offer hot and cold meals as well as a Subway franchise.

WH Smiths is located on level 5 of Royal Alexandra Hospital.

WRVS is located on level 5 of Royal Alexandra Hospital.

Costa Coffee is located at the entrance of the Barry Building.

Car Parking

There is a multi-storey car park located opposite the Royal Alexandra Hospital. A pay machine is located on each floor. For patients that have been diagnosed with cancer and are receiving treatment at the Royal Alexandra Hospital a yellow car parking permit will be issued, enabling free parking for two cars per family in the multi-storey car park and 2 bays located outside the main entrance of the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

Bus and Train

There are several bus stops that serve this site on Eastern Road.

Routes 1, 1A, 7, 14B, 14C, 23, 37, 37A, 37B, 40X, 47, 52, 57, 71, 73, 94A, N7 all stop outside the hospital. Bus times can be obtained from Brighton and Hove Bus Company on 01273 886200 or online.

By train

The nearest train station to the hospital is Brighton Station. From outside the station you can catch a bus (see details above) or get a taxi. There is a taxi rank directly outside the front of the station.

Your key worker is:

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Disclaimer

The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is in no way intended to replace professional clinical advice by a qualified practitioner.

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