



Day Oncology Unit- Western Hospital

Welcome to the Day Oncology Unit

We provide management and treatment for people with cancer, and related medical conditions. We aim to provide personalised care for all people with cancer, supporting you, your family and your friends.

The unit offers

Oncology nurses: who are specifically trained nurses who will administer your treatment and coordinate your care.

Education: We believe that education is extremely important when commencing new treatments. One of our nurses will sit down with you and provide information regarding your treatment and provide you with the opportunity to ask questions and express any concerns you may have.

Interpreters: It is essential that you understand what is happening; therefore we encourage the use of Interpreters, which we can arrange for any of your appointments.

Social workers: offer counselling and provide assistance in accessing community support services.

Dieticians: can assess your needs about nutrition requirements and discuss how best to achieve these.

Pastoral care: The team can provide you, your family and friend with emotional & spiritual care and support.

Pharmacy: Pharmacists can offer you with assistance and information regarding the medications you are receiving.

What to expect if you are receiving Chemotherapy

Treatment times differ for each person therefore we encourage people to leave the day free for chemotherapy, other than those appointments related to your treatment such as Radiotherapy.

While you will receive your treatment in the day oncology unit it is important you see your Oncology Doctor for regular medical review throughout your treatment cycle. You should see your Doctor after the first cycle of treatment, and as regularly as agreed upon by you and your Doctor. This review will either take place in the Doctors rooms or in the outpatient clinic in the

hospital. Your Doctor will monitor you throughout your treatment and may need to adjust your treatment to best suit you.

The most common side effects of chemotherapy which you may experience are: tiredness, nausea, vomiting, bowel problems, mouth problems and the effects on the blood including a temporary weakening of the immune system, which may increase the risk of you acquiring an infection. If you develop an infection while you are receiving chemotherapy (fever over 38° C (100° F), chills or sweats) act immediately. Come to the Emergency Department at Western Hospital and explain your treatment to ensure immediate attention.

Day Oncology will provide you with Anti-nausea drugs when you attend for chemotherapy. These are given to prevent and control nausea & vomiting. These medications will be administered prior to chemotherapy and will be provided in tablet form for you to take home with you. If nausea or vomiting persist, please tell the nurses who will then address your problem.

You will be required to have a blood test prior to each chemotherapy treatment. This is best conducted at a pathology centre near your home or at the hospital. This will be arranged by one of the oncology nurses.

Contact your doctor or the day oncology unit urgently if any of the following occur: -

- ⇒ Fever over 38° C (100° F), chills or sweats.
- ⇒ Easy bruising or any abnormal bleeding.
- ⇒ Persistent or severe vomiting: vomiting so often that you can't keep liquids down, despite taking the medication prescribed to you for vomiting.
- ⇒ Severe constipation or diarrhoea (more than three extra bowel actions per day) or abdominal pain.
- ⇒ A sudden decline in health.

<p>Day Oncology is open between 8AM and 5PM Monday to Friday Phone 8345-6432 After hours contact : - 2 East on 8345-6440 or 8345-6150 (please ask for the Nurse in Charge) or Emergency on 8345-6939</p>
--

Our aim is to make this experience as comfortable for you as is possible.