



## Western Health Day Oncology Unit Phone 8395 9177

### What We Do

The Day Oncology Service is where patients attend to receive treatments for cancer. Patients have their treatment during the day.

Your doctor will write a referral to the Day Oncology Unit and a staff member from the Day Oncology Unit will phone you with a time for you to attend a Pre-Chemotherapy Planning appointment.

### Where is it?

- Sunshine Hospital in Ward 1E. Enter via the main entrance to the hospital.
- Turn left and use the first set of lifts (numbers 16 and 17) to go to first floor. The reception for 1E is in front of you as you exit the lift.

Speak to our Reception staff for information about free parking.

Another chemotherapy service is operated at Sunbury Day Hospital every Wednesday and Friday. If Sunbury is a more convenient location for you, please talk to the nurses in Day Oncology.

### Pre-chemo Planning and Support

At this appointment you will meet with a nurse who will:

- Give you information about your chemotherapy treatment plan
- Give you your dates and times for your treatment appointments.
- Provide information about possible side-effects
- Tell you who to contact if you are concerned.

This will take approximately 1 hour. Please feel free to bring a family member or support person. Interpreters can be arranged if required.

Please bring:

- A current list of medicines
- Any recent test results that have been provided to you

### Can I choose my appointment times?

Patient appointment times are allocated between:

- 8.30am - 4.30pm on Mondays and Fridays, and
- 8.30am – 7.00pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (from 6/9/2021).

We will try to accommodate requests for a particular time of the day as much as possible. We ask that you come for your appointment at your allocated appointment time that we give you or contact us if you cannot make it. Please call 8395 9177 if you need to change or cancel a booked appointment.



## Is there a cost?

There is no cost for treatment - only a cost for discharge medications.

## Oncology Hospital in the Home

Some chemotherapy treatments can be given in the home. The benefits of being treated at home include your comfort, as well as saving you unnecessary travel to and from the hospital. If your treatment fits the criteria for Oncology Hospital in The Home administration, the nursing staff in Day Oncology will discuss this with you. If you feel you may be eligible and haven't been approached, please ask the nurse at your next hospital visit.

## Doctor appointments during chemotherapy

It is very important that you attend appointments with your Oncologist or Haematologist between scheduled chemotherapy sessions. This ensures that:

- The treatment plan is reviewed with you on a regular basis,
- Any side-effects you experience are well controlled,
- Any cancer symptoms your experience are well controlled.

The Oncologists and Haematologists work very closely with the Day Oncology Unit and will communicate any decisions or changes to your chemotherapy treatment plan. The nurses will follow up with you about your appointments with the Oncologist or Haematologist and if you have any questions please let them know.

## Blood tests

Most chemotherapy treatments require that you have a blood test before starting. It is important that you arrange to have the blood taken **1-2 days prior to your treatment day**. It is preferred that patients use Dorevitch Pathology. At the end of each chemotherapy treatment the nurse will make sure you have the right pathology slip and your next treatment appointment is booked in.

## Ongoing care in the day oncology unit

Each time you come for treatment, please let reception know you have arrived, and show your appointment card. As soon as possible after arrival a nurse will greet you and take you into the treatment area.

The nurse will assess how you have tolerated your previous treatment. If you have experienced significant side-effects please inform your nurse as a medical review may be required. It is not unusual for a medical review to occur at least once throughout your treatment plan.

## Side effects

Everyone's experience is different but it is not uncommon to have one or more side-effects. If you are feeling unwell or uncomfortable after your chemotherapy treatment and you are concerned or unsure about what to do, please call the **Symptom Urgent Review Clinic on 0421 570 707**.