Chemotherapy treatment at home

Your oncologist/haematologist (doctor specialising in cancer treatment/ blood disorders) has prescribed you a course of chemotherapy as treatment for your cancer.

The cancer care team at University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust (UHSFT) offers you the choice of having some or all of your chemotherapy treatment administered in our hospital day unit or, if you are eligible, to have your treatment at home.

The hospital is working in partnership with Healthcare at Home to provide this service.

Healthcare at Home is a private homecare company who specialise in the delivery of patients’ medicines at their homes.

Who is eligible for home treatment?
Your doctor may offer you the choice of receiving your chemotherapy at home if you are considered suitable. Their decision takes into account the type of cancer you have and the type of chemotherapy treatment being prescribed. Some types of chemotherapy treatment need to be given in the hospital. Your doctor or specialist nurse will explain this to you.

How does home treatment work?
If your doctor feels that home treatment will be possible they will explain the service to you. If you would like to find out more about being treated at home before you make your decision you can call Healthcare at Home on 0870 600 1540.

If you decide to have your treatment at home your oncologist/haematologist will share your details and treatment plan with the Healthcare at Home nurses, who will then contact you to arrange your treatment.

The chemotherapy at home service is available five days a week and visits are planned at times to suit you and your family needs wherever possible.

The Healthcare at Home nurses work under the guidance of UHSFT and will keep your doctors and nurses at the hospital fully informed of your progress.

You will continue to go back to the hospital for your appointments with your consultant. Any blood tests that may be required during the course of your treatment will be done either at the hospital or at your local GP practice.

What will happen at home?
On the day of treatment the Healthcare at Home nurse will bring all the necessary equipment to your home. They will also bring your prescribed chemotherapy treatment.

Just like in hospital, the nurse administers treatment according to your doctor’s instructions and there will be no changes to your planned care unless your doctor decides.
Most people choose to sit in a comfortable chair to receive their treatment; others prefer to lie on a bed. The important thing is to feel comfortable.

It is not necessary to have a relative or friend present for treatment, but some patients choose to have some company.

The Healthcare at Home nurse will record all of your treatment details in a folder that is left in your home. They will remove all clinical equipment at the end of the treatment session.

After each home treatment the hospital will be informed that your prescribed chemotherapy has been given. If any changes are needed to your planned care these are discussed and arranged with your oncologist/haematologist at the hospital.

All patients receiving treatment at home have access to the UHSFT clinical team 24 hours a day. The nurses will make sure that you are fully informed about your treatment.

I would like home treatment
If you would like to receive some of your treatment at home please speak to your doctor or specialist nurse who will advise you whether or not you are suitable.

If you feel unwell
The nurse will explain to you how you can expect to feel whilst on treatment. If you have any concerns with your treatment or if you feel unwell in any way, even if it is not related to your treatment, it is important that you seek advice straight away day or night. Contact the 24 hour emergency number below.

Who should I contact if I have questions or concerns about my medicines?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 hour emergency number</td>
<td>University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust - clinical team</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tel: 0786 797 3649</td>
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<tr>
<td>Questions about your treatment</td>
<td>University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust - chemotherapy nurse specialist</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tel: Healthcare at Home link nurse - 0777 649 6049</td>
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<td>Available from 8.30am to 9.30am and 3pm to 3.30pm please leave a message inbetween and the nurse will ring you back.</td>
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<td>Questions relating to delivery of your medicines or time of arrival of the nurse</td>
<td>Healthcare at Home - customer service team</td>
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<td>Tel: 0870 600 1540</td>
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If you need a translation of this document, an interpreter or a version in large print, Braille or on audio tape, please telephone 023 8079 4688 for help.