

## Patient information factsheet

# Southampton Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (TTP) Centre

We have given you this factsheet because you have been referred to the Southampton Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (TTP) Centre. It explains what the TTP Centre is and provides useful contact information for the TTP team. We hope it will help to answer some of the questions you may have. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact us using the details at the end of the factsheet.

### What is thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP)?

Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP) is a rare and life-threatening blood disorder that causes overactive blood clotting. In TTP, blood clots form in small blood vessels, which can block the blood flow to a person's vital organs, such as their brain and heart. As a result, serious health problems can develop.

TTP is a medical emergency as it develops suddenly and needs to be treated quickly within 4 to 8 hours of referral to a specialist centre.

In the UK, around 6 in 1,000,000 people are affected with TTP each year.

### What causes TTP?

TTP occurs when a person does not have enough ADAMTS13 (an enzyme that is involved in regulating blood clotting) in their blood.

### What is the Southampton TTP Centre?

The Southampton TTP Centre is one of 9 specialist regional centres and 11 participating hospitals commissioned by the NHS to provide specialist treatment for TTP. Along with Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, our specialist centre forms part of the Wessex Haematology Network. The Wessex Haematology Network was established to provide a coherent approach to the management of blood disorders across the Wessex region.

The Southampton TTP Centre cares for people with TTP and other inherited bleeding disorders, such as:

- haemophilia
- Von Willebrand disease
- platelet function disorders

The Southampton TTP Centre is based on C level at Southampton General Hospital (SGH) and is open Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.30pm.

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## Our Southampton TTP Centre team

Our team is made up of a number of healthcare professionals, including:

- haematology consultants
- haemostasis clinical nurse specialists
- a research team

## Clinics

We hold clinics for different bleeding disorders throughout the month. Please see the table below for more information.

Clinic	Date	Time	Location
Adult bleeding disorder	Every Wednesday	9.30am to 12 noon	Haemophilia Comprehensive Care Centre C level, SGH
Adult nurse-led bleeding disorder	Every Tuesday	1.20 to 4pm	Haemophilia Comprehensive Care Centre, C level, SGH
Paediatric haemophilia and bleeding disorder	Second Friday of every month	9am to 3pm	Haemophilia Comprehensive Care Centre, C level, SGH
Joint haematology and obstetrics pregnancy	Alternate Tuesday mornings	9am to 12 noon	Princess Anne Hospital, Coxford Road, Southampton, SO16 5YA

Your appointment letter will contain specific details about your appointment, including when and where it will be.

## Emergency access

If you are registered at the Southampton TTP Centre, you will have emergency access to our services in case you experience any TTP symptoms.

Contact us for advice **immediately** if you develop any new signs or symptoms of TTP, such as:

- flu-like symptoms
- a fever (high temperature, usually 38°C or above)
- tiredness
- a headache
- confusion
- bruises or petechiae (small bleeds under the skin, which look like small red dots) on your skin
- anxiety
- chest pain
- dark coloured urine
- your skin or the whites of your eyes turning yellow
- an upset stomach
- any changes to your vision
- stroke-like symptoms:
  - arm or leg weakness
  - an abnormal sensation (tingling and/or numbness) in your body and/or seizures

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## Contact us

If you have any of the symptoms above or any further questions or concerns, please contact us immediately.

### During working hours (8.30am to 4.30pm)

Haemostasis clinical nurse specialists

Telephone: **023 8120 4047**

Mobile: **07879 113644**

### Out of hours (4.30pm to 8.30am on weekdays, weekends, and bank holidays)

Acute oncology 24-hour emergency phone line (you will speak to a haematology on-call doctor)

Telephone: **023 8120 1345**

Appointment queries

Telephone: **023 8120 8454** (adults) or **023 8120 4118** (children)

Email: [haemostasis@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:haemostasis@uhs.nhs.uk)

University Hospital Southampton switchboard

Telephone: **023 8077 7222**

## Useful links

TTP Network

[www.ttpnetwork.org.uk](http://www.ttpnetwork.org.uk)

[www.ttpnetwork.org.uk/travel-translation-documents](http://www.ttpnetwork.org.uk/travel-translation-documents)

Your travel and health

[yourtravelandhealth.com/travel-resources](http://yourtravelandhealth.com/travel-resources)

My medical record

[mymedicalrecord.uhs.nhs.uk](http://mymedicalrecord.uhs.nhs.uk)

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For help preparing for your visit, arranging an interpreter or accessing the hospital, please visit **[www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalsupport](http://www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalsupport)**

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