

Welcome to C3 Chemotherapy Unit

Information for patients



Refreshments

We provide tea and coffee in the treatment area three times a day. Food can be bought from the shops and cafés at the main entrance and hot meals are available from the Spice of Life restaurant on B level. Alternatively, you may wish to bring your own food. Please note once your treatment has started you won't be able to leave the treatment room. You'll find water coolers available in the department.

Support

Macmillan Information and Support Centre

The Macmillan Centre on B level provides a variety of help and support:

- financial advice for people affected by cancer
- relaxation and complementary therapies
- access to a wig service
- access to Look good, Feel better workshops

They are open

Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm (except Bank Holidays)

Tel: 023 8120 6037

“Remember we're here to help you through your treatment. If you have any concerns we are happy to discuss them at any time.”

University Hospital Southampton
NHS Foundation Trust
Tremona Road
Southampton
SO16 6YD

Main switchboard: **023 8077 7222**

If you need a translation of this document, an interpreter or a version in large print, Braille or on audiotape, please telephone 023 8120 4688 for help.

www.uhs.nhs.uk

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This leaflet has been written to help provide you with practical information about our chemotherapy unit and to give you an overview of what to expect when you visit us.

On the day

Blood tests

You'll need to have a blood test before we can prescribe your chemotherapy, so we recommend that you arrive one hour before your consultation appointment with your blood form.

On arrival take a ticket from the machine and then, once your number is displayed, you'll go into the phlebotomy room for your blood test. If you have a 'line' (meaning a central venous access device such as Picc, Hickman or Portacath) you'll need a separate appointment for a blood test, ask our reception staff about this.

Your consultation

Before each consultation the coordinating nurse will measure your height and weight.

Following your blood test, you'll need to take a seat in the waiting room and wait to be called by your clinician. They'll talk you through your blood test results and any other issues. If all is well, they will prescribe your treatment. Before your appointment, make a note of any questions you might want to ask and bring a list of any medication you're currently taking.

You will see the clinician on one day for your appointment and then return within 72 hours to have the chemotherapy. However, if you live a long distance from the hospital (e.g. Channel Islands, Isle of Wight) you may opt to see the clinician and have the treatment on the same day. If you choose this option you'll need to be prepared for it to be a long day as there's a minimum four hours wait between seeing your doctor or nurse and receiving your treatment.

If you take any medication during the day please bring it with you as you may require it during your visit.

We always strive to keep to appointment times but this isn't always possible. We'll try to keep you informed of any delays.

If you have any concerns regarding your treatment please ask at reception to see our chemotherapy coordinator.

As the chemotherapy clinic has limited space and seating, we ask that only one relative/carer accompanies you on your visits wherever possible.

After your appointment

Before you leave please ensure you have:

- arranged **two appointments** for next time – one to see the clinician and one for the treatment
- **blood forms** (which your clinician will give to you)
- **your medications** to take home. Your prescription will have been sent electronically to the hospital pharmacy for your collection, so you won't need a paper prescription. The pharmacy is just inside the main entrance to Southampton General and is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm (closed on weekends). Of course, you could always collect your prescription prior to your appointment, if you prefer.

Practical information

Where to find us

We're located on C level in East Wing - the same floor as the main hospital entrance, shops and cafés.

We also hold clinics on D level so remember to check your appointment details to make sure you go to the right place.

If you live around Lymington or near Countess Mountbatten House in West End and would like to receive your treatment at either of these locations please speak to your clinician.

Opening times

C3 is open **Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm**

Reception is open **Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm**

Tel: **023 8120 4565**

Getting to the hospital

Wherever possible, please arrange for a friend or relative to drop you off or, alternatively, use public transport where possible so that you don't have to worry about parking.

Patient transport service

If you're medically unfit to travel on public transport then transport can be arranged for you.

If this is your first visit then you should ask your GP surgery to arrange transport on your behalf. For subsequent visits our reception staff will be able to help you. If there's space then a friend or family member can also travel with you. We'll need 48 hours notice to arrange this for you and please remember to let us know if you no longer need hospital transport.

Parking at the hospital

Patient and visitor parking is available but space can be limited at peak times so if you decide to drive in, you'll need to allow extra time to park.

You'll find full details of our car park locations on www.uhs.nhs.uk. Parking for disabled badge holders is available in car park 2 near the main hospital entrance.

There is a charge for parking, but patients receiving treatment on C3 are entitled to a discounted ticket. To receive this, just hand your parking ticket to our reception staff on arrival.