

# Cancer of the Unknown Primary (CUP) Assessment Service

An information guide





# **Cancer of the Unknown Primary (CUP) Assessment Service**

## **What is Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)?**

Cancer can sometimes spread from the part of the body in which it first started (primary cancer) and continue to grow in other parts of the body (secondary cancer). For most people who have cancer, the primary cancer is easy to identify.

When cancer is found in one or more secondary sites but the doctors caring for you are unable to tell from test results where the cancer began, the cancer may be called 'Cancer of the Unknown Primary or CUP'.

## **What is the Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP) Assessment service?**

Within Northern Care Alliance (NCA) there are Macmillan acute oncology nurses offering support and expertise in caring for patients admitted with problems related to their cancer or its treatment.

These nurses are part of the CUP assessment service, for patients where the site of their original cancer is not known. They will be able to meet you during your stay in hospital, working alongside the hospital team responsible for your care.

They can also see you in the outpatient clinic offering support, information and guidance to you and those who are important to you. They also support the doctors and other health professionals caring for you.

The nurses meet with other members of the CUP multi-disciplinary team (MDT) on a weekly basis to discuss your diagnosis and treatment.

The MDT team includes a consultant oncologist (cancer specialist), palliative care consultant, pathologist, radiologist and nurses.

Different factors are taken into consideration when deciding on your best treatment options, including how likely you are to benefit from treatment. The intention of treatment may be to try to control your cancer, to help you live longer, or to help you achieve the best possible quality of life.

Palliative care, including medicines to control symptoms, is an important part of care for those individuals diagnosed with CUP. Should it not be possible to offer a cancer treatment or if you decide with your specialist not to have treatment, then involving palliative care services may be a preferred option to ensure that you receive the best possible support.

### **The aim of the hospital CUP service is to:**

- Provide ongoing specialist support, information and advice to you and your family
- Provide advice to help you manage symptoms and side effects
- Ensure tests and examinations are streamlined to make sure you don't have any that are unnecessary
- Help avoid unnecessary admission to hospital, and ensure any hospital stays are appropriate and kept to a minimum
- Keep you fully informed of your care and the plan for your care
- Signpost you towards other services which may be of benefit to you

**For further information regarding the CUP assessment service:**

Please contact the Macmillan acute oncology service on **0161 627 8134**.

The service working hours are: 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Sunday, including weekends and bank holidays

**Other useful information:**

**Macmillan Cancer Support:**

Provides emotional and practical support to people affected by cancer. Also, information about cancer and living with cancer is available on-line, or in the form of booklets and DVDs. Helpline and on-line support.

**[www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)**

**Telephone: 0808 808 0000**

**Jo's Friends – Cancer of Unknown Primary Foundation:**

**[www.cupfoundjo.org](http://www.cupfoundjo.org)**

Provides information and support on-line (and by telephone after registering on-line) to people affected by CUP.

## **Out of hours numbers**

Dr Kershaw's Hospice 24 hour advice line - 0161 785 5635

Springhill Hospice 24 hour advice line - 01706 653555

Bury Hospice - 0161 725 9800

The Christie hotline - 0161 446 3658 (Christie patients only)

## **Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Centre**

The service offers free, confidential information and support to anyone affected by cancer. Please ring the number below to make an appointment if you would like to access this service.

The Macmillan Information & Support Service

Royal Oldham Hospital

Rochdale Road,

Oldham, OL1 2JH.

**Telephone:** 0161 656 1026

**Email:** [macmillaninfocentre@pat.nhs.uk](mailto:macmillaninfocentre@pat.nhs.uk)

Open Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm

**Notes:**

**If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service**

Jeśli angielski nie jest twoim pierwszym językiem i potrzebujesz pomocy, skontaktuj się z działem tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych

اگر انگریزی آپ کی پہلی زبان نہیں ہے اور آپ کو مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو ، براہ کرم ترجمانی اور ترجمہ خدمت سے رابطہ کریں

Dacă engleza nu este prima ta limbă și ai nevoie de ajutor, te rugăm să contactezi Serviciul de interpretare și traducere

ইংরাজী যদি আপনার প্রথম ভাষা না হয় এবং আপনার সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয় তবে অনুগ্রহ করে দোভাষী এবং অনুবাদ পরিষেবাটিতে যোগাযোগ করুন

إذا لم تكن الإنجليزية هي لغتك الأولى وتحتاج إلى مساعدة ، فيرجى الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة الشفوية والتحريرية

☎ : 0161 627 8770

@ : interpretation@pat.nhs.uk

To improve our care environment for Patients, Visitors and Staff, **Northern Care Alliance NHS Group** is Smoke Free including buildings, grounds & car parks.

For advice on stopping smoking contact the Specialist Stop Smoking Service on 01706 517 522

**For general enquiries please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0161 604 5897**


**For enquiries regarding clinic appointments, clinical care and treatment please contact 0161 624 0420 and the Switchboard Operator will put you through to the correct department / service**

The Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA) is one of the largest NHS organisations in the country, employing 17,000 staff and providing a range of hospital and community healthcare services to around 1 million people across Salford, Oldham, Bury, Rochdale and surrounding areas. Our Care Organisations are responsible for providing our services, delivering safe, high quality and reliable care to the local communities they serve.

The NCA brings together Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and the hospitals and community services of The Royal Oldham Hospital, Fairfield General Hospital in Bury, and Rochdale Infirmary (currently part of The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust).

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