

Your Colorectal Multidisciplinary Team explained

An information guide



Your Colorectal Multidisciplinary Team explained

Record of your consultation

Your Key worker is:

Their phone number is:

Your healthcare team

Diagnosing and treating cancer requires a team of experts; this team is called a multidisciplinary team (MDT). The team is made up of cancer experts. These are people who can understand what cancer cells look like and how they behave and people who can carry out tests, decide what the type of cancer is, and which drugs are most effective in treating it.

There are many people in the MDT. All of them play a part in supporting you and your family throughout your care pathway. Some of the team that you may come into contact will include the following.

The gastroenterologist

A doctor who will carry out diagnostic endoscopic procedures (camera tests) - such as gastroscopy, sigmoidoscopy, and colonoscopy. You may have had one of these tests already, or will need to have one in the future.

The colorectal surgeon

A doctor who will carry out camera tests of your bowel, explain your treatment and carry out operations to remove the cancer.

The colorectal nurse specialist

A nurse who specialises in caring for and supporting people with colorectal (bowel) problems. Colorectal nurse specialists can provide advice, support and information to patients and their families throughout diagnosis, treatment and follow-up.

The stoma nurse

A nurse who specialises in stoma care and is able to give advice. A stoma is formed surgically when a section of the bowel is brought out to the surface of the abdomen, allowing waste products (faeces) to be collected into a bag (stoma pouch). A stoma may be temporary or permanent.

Nurse endoscopist

A nurse specially trained to carry out camera tests of your bowel.

The radiologist

A doctor who is an expert in looking at x-rays and special scans from which a diagnosis is made.

The pathologist

A doctor who is an expert in looking at cancer cells under a microscope and working out how they might behave.

The oncologist

This is a visiting doctor from the Christie Hospital who is an expert in deciding which drugs or other treatments will be best for treating your type of cancer. They may specialise in drug treatments (including chemotherapy) or in radiation treatment.

You come first

To make sure you are the one who benefits, everyone in the MDT meets on a regular basis. We hold a meeting to talk about your cancer and work out what will be the best for you, as treatment is tailor-made for you.

We want to ensure that you are confident about your treatment plan, so talk to us and let us know what is important to you. We will always tell you everything we know about your cancer and explain the treatment we think is best for you.

Any questions?

Your key worker is there to help you if you are worried about anything, or don't understand something you have heard. Your key worker is your first point of contact if you need to contact any member of the MDT.

Additional information

At some point during your treatment, you may need to visit the Cancer Treatment Centre either at the Christie or the Christie at Oldham. If this is the case everything will be explained to you. Once a decision has been made on how best to treat you, the most suitable place for you to receive your treatment will be discussed with you.

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

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

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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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