

Gastroenterology Specialist Nurse Service

An information guide



Gastroenterology Specialist Nurse Service

What is the aim of the service?

The aim of this service is to provide advice, support, help and information to you and your family/carer while you are undergoing diagnosis, treatment and continuing care for your liver disease.

Our aim is to prevent avoidable hospital admissions by monitoring your condition or treating complications that may occur.

Who is the service available to?

This service is available to anyone who has a liver problem.

How can you access the service?

If you have been admitted to hospital with a liver problem, you will probably meet one of the two gastroenterology (gastro) nurses (GNS) whilst you are an inpatient.

You may also be referred to the service by the doctor you saw in the outpatients' clinic.

The nurse specialist role is about ensuring that you or your carer has sufficient knowledge and information about your illness to allow you to make informed decisions about your care.

Why have a specialised nurse?

It can be a daunting and bewildering experience coming to hospital and being diagnosed with liver disease.

Much of what you are told in clinic tends to be forgotten or misunderstood, and after leaving hospital you often think of questions you want to ask.

Having access to someone who you can contact to talk to and can remove some of the anxiety and hopefully make you feel more in control of the situation.

If you need to come to the hospital for further investigation or treatment, either as an outpatient or as an inpatient, it may be reassuring to know that the specialist nurse is only a phone call away.

As you are often seen by different doctors in hospital, the specialist nurse is the one person who remains in contact with you throughout your treatment. This ensures that you are supported throughout the treatment regimes.

Our role in brief

- Providing information regarding liver disease, the signs and symptoms, the complications and treatment options available.
- Helping you understand your medications.
- Providing a nurse led abdominal paracentesis (drains) service.
- Providing a helpline for you and your family/friend/carer.
- Acting as a resource for other health professionals both in the hospital and in the community.
- Providing nurse led clinics to monitor your disease, detect any problems and to discuss future treatment plans.
- Acting as a liaison with specialist liver centres.
- Ensuring blood tests are monitored in an outpatient setting.
- Providing education for all health care professionals.

Gastro nurse led paracentesis service :

The gastro nurse (GNS) may be able to offer the facility of a nurse led day service for the draining of ascites. This is dependent on the individual patients condition and the availability of a bed.

Once enrolled on the programme, the patient contacts the gastro nurse to say the abdomen is tense and a drain may be required. The nurse will arrange a bed and contact you with an actual date. Meanwhile it is the patients responsibility to have their bloods checked prior to admission. Failure to do so may result in the procedure being cancelled.

A blood card will be provided and a sample can be taken at your nearest hospital. This is to ensure there are no bleeding or clotting problems prior to the insertion of the drain.

On the day of the drain, the patient will meet the GNS on the stipulated ward at 8am. The drain will be inserted and once drained you will be allowed to go home. Your water tablets may be adjusted on this visit and you will be advised accordingly. No water tablets should be taken on the day of the drain or the next 24hrs.

If at anytime you feel the ascites is too problematic, or you cannot contact the GNS, then you are advised to attend your nearest A&E department.

Contact details

This service is provided by two registered nurses with specialist experience and who have qualifications in liver disease management.

Working hours 08:30am to 3:30pm, Monday to Friday

Please note we **do not** work on bank holidays

The Royal Oldham Hospital - 0161 656 1538

Mobile – 07805587375

You may leave a message on the office phone and your call will be answered as soon as possible, although this may not be on the same day.

Useful website

www.britishlivertrust.org.uk

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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