

Mobile Cancer Care Unit (page 1 of 2)

Bringing chemotherapy treatment closer to patients' homes

The Mobile Cancer Care Unit (MCCU) is a purpose built vehicle on which Chemotherapy nurses from the Pembroke Unit at Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust will give chemotherapy and other supportive treatments. It is provided and maintained by the national cancer charity 'Hope for Tomorrow'.

The MCCU will travel from Salisbury to locations within the Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust catchment area: Wiltshire, West Hampshire and Dorset.

The MCCU will operate 4 days a week: Fordingbridge on Tuesdays, Gillingham on Wednesdays and Fridays and Westbury on Thursdays.

The aim of the MCCU is to reduce the amount of travelling you have to do, by providing an opportunity to give certain treatments closer to your home.

Can all patients receive treatment on the MCCU?

Not all patients and treatments will be suitable for treatment on the MCCU. If you are thought to be suitable you will be offered the option of receiving your treatment on the MCCU. You will, however, have to receive your first treatment in the Pembroke Unit in case you have any immediate side effects.

Circumstances may prevent the MCCU going to the planned location on the day. If this happens, you will be contacted by phone – this may mean you have to travel to the hospital for treatment.

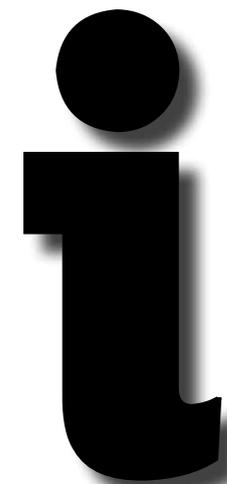
Blood tests

If you need a blood test before chemotherapy, you will need to arrange for this to be done either at your GP surgery or in the Pathology Department at the hospital. You will be given a blood test form at each treatment session in time for the next treatment.

You need to have your blood taken at least 48 hours before your next treatment. This will ensure the results are available in time for your assessment and so that we may prepare the drugs you need. Without the blood results, the chemotherapy may not be prepared and treatment may be delayed.

Assessments before treatment

There are no doctors on the MCCU; therefore you will be assessed before each treatment to make sure you are well enough to receive treatment. This will be done through a clinic appointment in Salisbury or via a



If you need your information in another language or medium (audio, large print, etc) please contact Customer Care on 0800 374 208 or send an email to: customer care@salisbury.nhs.uk

You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital.

Please complete The Friends & Family Test to tell us about your experience at: www.salisbury.nhs.uk/FriendsFamily or download our App from the Apple App store or Google Play Store.

The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email: patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk if you would like a reference list.

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telephone assessment by one of the Oncology/Haematology doctors or nurses a day or so before treatment.

You must be available to receive the telephone assessment on an accessible telephone such as a landline or mobile number at the time allocated. If the telephone assessment suggests that you are unwell, treatment may be delayed and there is a possibility you may need to be seen by the doctor at the Pembroke Unit before treatment is continued.

Might the treatment on the MCCU be stopped?

It may be necessary for treatment on the MCCU to be stopped because of how you feel during the treatment or the condition of your veins for cannulation. This will involve discussion with both nursing staff and your consultant.

Also if your circumstances change and you have additional needs which cannot be addressed on the MCCU, such as loss of mobility, you may have to go to the Pembroke Unit for your treatment.

How will treatment be given on the MCCU?

Treatment will be given in the same way as it is in hospital. The MCCU has four comfortable recliner chairs for patients to use and the nurses will have all the necessary equipment available.

To ensure that the day runs smoothly please turn up at the allocated appointment time. Please ring the bell on the MCCU when you arrive for treatment. Due to lack of space and resources, the nurses may ask you to wait in the local hospital or surgery until they are ready. Hot drinks, water and biscuits are available on the MCCU but we recommend that you bring other refreshments that you may need.

Can relatives stay with the patient on the MCCU?

There is limited space available on the MCCU so, unlike on the Pembroke Unit, relatives cannot stay with you during your treatment; however there will be space for relatives and friends bringing patients for treatment to wait in the hospital or surgery close to where the MCCU is parked.

Will patients still have contact with the hospital team at Salisbury?

If you are receiving treatment on the MCCU, you will still be under the care of the same consultant oncologist or haematologist and they will continue to supervise your treatment.

For queries relating to MCCU appointments please ring the MCCU Coordinator 01722 336262 ext 3169.

If you feel unwell on the day of treatment on the MCCU, you must ring the hotline number on 01722 341930 before attending the MCCU.

The MCCU is supported by Hope for Tomorrow: 01666 505055. Registered Charity No. 1094677

www.hopefortomorrow.org.uk