



Oxford University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Cancer of the Oesophagus and the Stomach

Information about your care



Introduction

This information leaflet has been designed to give you information about the people who will be involved in your care.

You will be looked after by the Oesophagogastric Cancer Multi-disciplinary Team at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. We hope that this leaflet will be a source of information and help for you.

The Oesophagogastric Cancer Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)

The Oesophagogastric Multi-disciplinary Team is made up of a group of healthcare professionals who have a specialist interest, knowledge and expertise in the management of patients with cancers of the oesophagus and the stomach.

The team is made up of:

- **Specialist Surgeons** – who specialise in surgery of the oesophagus and the stomach.
- **Specialist Oncologists** – who specialise in cancer treatments such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy.
- **Pathologists** – who examine samples such as biopsies to look for particular cancer cell types.
- **Radiologists** – who perform and interpret X-rays, CT, PET and MRI scans.
- **Specialist Nurses** – who will offer you a point of contact, information and support.
- **Dietitians** – who will support your health through food and nutrition.
- **Multi-Disciplinary Co-ordinator** – who co-ordinates Multi-Disciplinary Team Meetings and ‘tracks’ your care.

The MDT Meeting

The MDT meets every Monday morning. Each patient's case is discussed when they reach important points with their diagnosis and treatment. The MDT will discuss your case history, X-ray images and pathology results (from studying biopsies), together with any other relevant information. As a team, they will work out an appropriate plan for your treatment or care. This plan will be discussed with you over the telephone, at an appointment in clinic or on the ward.

Upper Gastrointestinal Specialist Nurses

Upper Gastrointestinal Specialist Nurses are senior nurses who work as core members of the Multi-Disciplinary Team.

The specialist nurse works closely with the members of the MDT involved in your care. They are also able to put you in contact with other members of the team, such as the doctors, dietitians, palliative care team and other health professionals.

You will also be assigned a **key-worker**.

What is a key-worker?

Your key-worker will be your main point of contact with the hospital. Your key-worker is involved in co-ordinating your care. The role is often carried out by the specialist nurses, but if your needs change, you may be supported by another member of the MDT. Although a key-worker is assigned to you, the whole team will help to plan and manage your care.

The key-worker attends the weekly Multi-Disciplinary Team meeting to discuss your care. They can act as a link for you to hear about what was discussed at the meeting.

How can we help?

Specialist nurses aim to offer you and your carers a point of contact for information, support and advice during any investigations, treatment and care.

The specialist nurse can offer:

- Specialist assessment and emotional support to deal with your diagnosis and treatment.
- Specialist information about cancers of the oesophagus and the stomach and information about treatments that you may be offered.
- Advice about symptoms, treatment side-effects and their management.
- Any other issues or concerns or comments you may wish to raise.
- A link with other staff and services involved with your care.

Please do not hesitate to contact the specialist nurses if you need advice about your condition or treatment.

How can you contact us?

The specialist nurses can be contacted on the numbers listed below. You can either contact them by telephone (you may need to leave a message with the secretary or on the answerphone) or by using the hospital bleep system.

Churchill Hospital:

Telephone: 01865 235 058

Please leave a message on the answerphone.

The specialist nursing team is not an emergency service.

For urgent help or advice, please contact an out-of-hours GP or emergency services.

Alternatively, you can contact the Oncology Triage Service on 01865 572 192 (open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

Further information

There are many ways about finding out information about cancer and possible treatments. People who are affected by cancer often need information to help them to make informed decisions about their condition, treatment and to help them plan for their future.

The specialist nurses have access to a range of written national and local information leaflets. The Maggie's Cancer Information Centre also provides valuable sources of information.

Information can be found on the internet, but should always be read in relation to what you have been told by the cancer specialists.

The team are happy to discuss further the information about treatment options in clinic or over the telephone. Our patients are also welcome to seek further advice from a different health professional before making decisions about treatment options.

**Maggie's Cancer Information Centre,
Churchill Hospital, Oxford**

Telephone: 01865 751 882

Website: www.maggiescentres.org

Macmillan Cancer Support

Telephone: 0808 808 00 00

(8am to 8pm, 7 days a week)

Website: www.macmillan.org.uk

**Oxfordshire Oesophageal and Stomach Organisation
(OOSO)**

Telephone: 07759 996 969

Website: www.ooso.org.uk

Oesophageal Patients Association

Telephone: 0121 704 9860

Website: www.opa.org.uk

Free prescriptions

All patients with a diagnosis of cancer are entitled to free prescriptions.

(Please speak to your doctor or specialist nurse for details.)

Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

Reviewed by AM Phillips, Upper Gastrointestinal Senior Specialist Nurse

Approved by SUWON Patient Information Coordinator and Lead
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Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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