The Melanoma Clinic
Medical Oncology

Information for patients
This leaflet aims to give you information you may find useful when you first come for an appointment at the Melanoma Clinic.

People whom you may see

Doctors
Dr Maria Marples, Dr Jane Hook and Dr Elaine Dunwoodie are the Consultants. Dr Satiavani Ramasamy is the Clinical Oncology Consultant. There may also be one or two specialist registrars, who are middle-grade trainees in medical or clinical oncology. There are other melanoma clinics going on at the same time as the oncology clinic, run by Dr Angana Mitra (Dermatology) and Mr Howard Peach, Mr Donald Dewar and Dr Muinonen-Martin (Plastic Surgery) so that if required, patients can be reviewed by any of the specialist members of the team.

Nurses
Clinic nurses – the outpatients sister is supported by staff nurses and health care assistants.

Systemic therapy nurses – the intravenous chemotherapy and immunotherapy team of specialist staff nurses.

Melanoma clinical nurse specialists – are your key workers and are an important point of contact for enquiries.

Research nurses – run the melanoma clinical trials in the clinic.

See page five for contact details
Pharmacists
We have a team of pharmacists who authorise systemic therapy and assure its safe administration. The pharmacy is located on Level 0 near the Plaza entrance of Bexley Wing.

Reception staff
The clinic receptionists will greet you on arrival and book you into clinic. We also have volunteers in attendance.

When you arrive at the clinic
Please go to the reception desk, Oncology Outpatients, Level 1 Bexley Wing, where you will be booked in by the receptionist. It is helpful if you tell us if you have had tests or procedures whose results you would like to discuss, so we can make sure that we have the information. While you are waiting to see the doctor, you may be given forms to have a blood test (the room for this is down the corridor) or an X-ray (on the ground floor). You may be weighed.

If the clinic is running late, you will be told why this is, and how long the delay is likely to be. If you need to leave the clinic (e.g. to the café or the car park), please tell one of the clinic nurses.

Seeing the doctor
The doctor will call you in to a consultation room. You are welcome to bring a friend or relative with you if you like. If there are any other people in the room (e.g. another doctor, a nurse, or a medical student), they will be introduced, and you will be asked if you are happy for them to stay.
If this is your first visit to the oncology clinic, the doctor will take a detailed history and will usually examine you. The diagnosis and management plan will be discussed with you. You will have the opportunity to ask questions (if you have questions before your visit, it may help to write them down).

**Treatment**

There is a range of treatment that may be offered to you, depending on the status of your melanoma and your general health. The oncology clinic co-ordinates these treatments, and may offer some as well.

**Biopsy**

If a lump or swelling needs to be biopsied, this can often be done in the clinic. The biopsy is done using a needle like the needles used for blood tests. You may have a local anaesthetic if you would like one.

**Surgery**

If you need surgery, the clinic doctors will liaise with the surgeons.

**Radiotherapy**

If you need radiotherapy you may meet Dr Ramasamy in clinic or be referred to her or a colleague here at the centre. You will be given more information about radiotherapy if this is necessary.

**Systemic therapy**

If you need systemic therapy, this is given at St James’s Hospital in Bexley Wing. Most systemic therapy for melanoma is an outpatient treatment, it may be administered in the
chemotherapy suite in the outpatient clinic or given as tablets or capsules by mouth. You will be given written information on systemic therapy in general as well as more specific information on the treatment you will be having.

Clinical Trials
You may be offered participation in a clinical trial. This will be fully explained to you and you will be given written information. Taking part in clinical trials is voluntary.

Contact numbers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Clinical Nurse Specialist Team</th>
<th>0113 206 7660</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Nurses</td>
<td>0113 206 8167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanoma Epidemiology Trials</td>
<td>0113 206 6957</td>
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Support
This may be a stressful and difficult time for you, and you may be experiencing symptoms from your melanoma. The nurse specialists can offer advice in clinic, and suggest further sources of support you may wish to access.
Leeds Cancer Support

Leeds Cancer Support complements care provided by your clinical team. They offer access to information and a wide range of support, in a welcoming environment for you, your family and friends.

They can be found in the information lounges in Bexley Wing and also in the Sir Robert Ogden Macmillan Centre.

The Sir Robert Ogden Macmillan Centre

The Centre is on the St James’s Hospital site and offers a variety of support services including counselling, support groups and complementary therapies. These therapies include Reiki, relaxation and visualisation, hand and foot massage and many others. You can just drop in for a coffee and a chat anytime. Open from 10am - 4pm Monday to Friday.

You may be referred to the Macmillan nurses who can offer advice on symptom control, managing side-effects of treatment, and general support for you and your family.

Information Lounge Level 1 Outpatients Department

Open from 10am - 4pm. Tel: (0113) 206 8816

Information Lounge Level -2 Radiotherapy Department

Open from 8.30am - 6.00pm. Tel: (0113) 206 8940

Sir Robert Ogden Macmillan Centre

Open from 10am - 4pm. Tel: (0113 206 6498)

All the above services can be emailed on: leedsth-tr.Cancersupport@nhs.net
Macmillan Cancer Support

This is a free telephone helpline to answer any questions you may have about living with cancer. They have a range of information dealing with emotional, practical and financial problems.

**Tel: 0808 808 2020** 9am to 6pm Monday to Friday
Interpreters are available if required.
A textphone service for deaf and hard of hearing people is available on: **18001 0808 808 0000**
[www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)

*Space for you to jot down any questions you may have for the doctors or nurses...*