



Royal Berkshire  
NHS Foundation Trust

# **Introduction to the lung cancer multi disciplinary team (MDT)**

Information for patients  
and relatives

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**This leaflet aims to provide you and your family / friends with information about the multi disciplinary team (MDT) involved in your care at the Royal Berkshire Hospital (RBH). There are also some useful telephone numbers and website addresses that you may find helpful.**

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## **Introduction**

Being diagnosed with an illness such as lung cancer or mesothelioma can be a confusing and bewildering experience. You will probably meet a number of different professionals, all involved in different aspects of your care.

In addition, you may be given lots of information about your treatment, how to manage symptoms and where to access advice.

This booklet outlines the people you may meet and how to contact someone if you need to. It will also give you information as to where to access further information and advice if you need it.

## **The multi disciplinary team (MDT)**

During the treatment of your lung cancer, you may meet a number of different doctors, nurses and other health care professionals. People diagnosed with lung cancer receive the most effective care and treatment when doctors and nurses with different specialist areas of practice work together.

All patients with a new diagnosis of cancer are discussed at an MDT meeting. This occurs weekly and any x-rays / scans or biopsy samples are shown and discussed by the members of the team.

## **Members of the cancer MDT:**

- Chest physicians, who have expertise in chest medicine.
- Designated thoracic surgeons.
- Clinical oncologists, who are cancer doctors with expertise in radiotherapy and chemotherapy.
- Radiologist, with expertise in lung cancer.
- Histopathologist, with expertise in lung cancer.
- Lung cancer clinical nurse specialists will provide information and support for patients with lung cancer.
- Palliative care consultant/nurse specialist, with expertise in symptom control.
- MDT co-ordinator.
- Research nurses, provide information to the team on new trials.
- Designated lead clinician, who will be one of the above team and will take managerial responsibility for service improvement.
- Key worker is appointed from the MDT members for each individual patient and the name of the current key worker is recorded in the patient's case notes. This is usually one of the clinical nurse specialists.

## **Chest physicians**

For many patients it is the chest doctors who will make the diagnosis of their lung cancer. Therefore, you probably already know this part of the team well.

There are seven consultant chest physicians based at the Department of Respiratory Medicine (see Trust website for details [www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk](http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk)). Some of the chest physicians also have clinics at West Berkshire Community Hospital.

These consultants work with a team of doctors who may see you in clinic or care for you on the wards. After your diagnosis, the chest physicians will probably refer you to one or more other consultants. However, they will remain involved in your care and may see you during and after your treatment.

## **Thoracic (chest) surgeons**

For some patients, the best form of treatment may be to have an operation to remove all or part of the lung. Other patients may require special tests or procedures that will need to be done as a minor operation. In these cases, patients will be referred to the thoracic (chest) surgeon.

The consultant thoracic surgeon is Mr John Pilling. Initially, he will see you in the Thursday clinic in RBH. However, if the doctors decide that you need to have an operation you would have this at Guy's Hospital in London. You would be admitted to Dorcas Ward.

## **Clinical oncologists**

These are doctors who provide specialist expertise in the non-surgical treatment of cancer. This treatment may be radiotherapy or drug treatment like chemotherapy. Dr Joss Adams and Dr Lilian Cheung are the consultant clinical oncologists to whom the chest physicians may refer you for treatment of your lung cancer. They or their registrars will explain your treatment options and answer any questions that you may have. They will also be involved in planning and giving you the optimum treatment for your lung cancer.

If you are going to have radiotherapy treatment, you would be treated as an outpatient in the Radiotherapy Department. Details of your radiotherapy treatment and potential side effects will be given to you on a separate information sheet.

If you are going to have chemotherapy treatment you may be treated as an inpatient on a ward or as an outpatient in the day unit on King Edward Ward. If you are to be treated as an inpatient, you will be admitted to Adelaide Ward. Details of your chemotherapy treatment and potential side effects will be given to you on a separate information sheet.

## **Lung cancer specialist nursing team**

There are three clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) in the team Allison Hunt and Catherine Lingham; and our support worker Paula Foster. The CNS role is to be your key worker, i.e. your main point of contact with the hospital and responsible for co-ordinating your care. They will listen to what is concerning you and to help answer any questions that you and your family may have. They are available to discuss your diagnosis with you and to help you understand the treatment suggested by your doctors. If you are unsure whether you have met the CNS/key worker please ask your consultant to contact them.

You may see the CNSs when you are on the ward, whilst having treatment, or at your outpatient appointment. The CNSs can be contacted between 9.00am and 4.30pm Monday-Friday. Unfortunately, there is no emergency service outside these hours so if you are unwell at home, please contact your GP service.

We all realise that sometimes people need time to talk about what is happening, even if there are no clear answers. The nurses are available to ensure that you have adequate support and will also be able to give you some practical advice and information on coping with your illness, symptoms and treatment.

Another part of their role is to provide a link between the whole team involved with your care, both in hospital and at home. They can put you in contact with other professionals who may be able to help with specific problems if necessary, such as:

- The clinical nurse specialist at Guy's Hospital
- The district nurse
- The supportive and palliative care specialist nurses
- Benefits Advisory Department
- Social worker
- Occupational therapist
- Physiotherapist
- Dietitian
- Hospital chaplain
- Clinical psychologist
- Solicitors (asbestos related diseases)

## **Palliative care consultants**

Palliative care consultants are doctors providing specialist expertise in the treatment of any symptoms, which may be related to your lung cancer. They work closely with the rest of the team to ensure that you receive the best possible treatment and care. Dr Amelia Moretto, Dr Sam Krauze and Dr Sophie Price are the community-based palliative care consultants and you may be referred to them at any time during your illness.

## **Hospital palliative care team**

They provide specialist advice on any symptoms from both the cancer and the treatments and work closely with the Lung CNS team to provide emotional and psychological support for patients and their families.

Some patients suffer from difficult symptoms, even at the time that they are diagnosed. The palliative care team will be available to help you with symptom problems at any time during your illness.

Sometimes, they will have only a short contact with you while they give advice on your problems. At other times, a member of the palliative care team may become your key worker.

## **Community palliative care team (Sue Ryder nurses)**

These teams of nurses provide specialist palliative care and support for people in their own homes. They work closely with the GPs and district nurses in the community setting, rather than in the hospital setting, and liaise with the doctors and nurses at the RBH.

These nurses provide a link to hospice and day centre care. The day centres provide support and advice regarding symptoms as well as a range of therapies and other activities.

## **Respiratory medicine wards (Kennet and Loddon)**

These wards specialise in all problems relating to breathing and lungs. Some patients will find this is where their diagnosis is given; others may be admitted for management of pleural effusions (fluid between the lung linings). See Trust website for details of the wards [www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/our-wards/](http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/our-wards/)

## **Oncology ward (Adelaide Ward)**

This ward specialises in cancer and its treatment. Patients are admitted here for treatments and management of side effects related to these. Patients are also admitted for management of symptoms from their lung cancer. See Trust website for details of the wards [www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/our-wards/](http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/our-wards/)

## **Chemotherapy Day Unit (West/King Edward Ward)**

This ward specialises in giving chemotherapy as a day case. The chemotherapy nurses provide specialist advice and support for patients receiving chemotherapy treatment. Other supportive treatments, such as blood transfusions and the treatment for high calcium levels, are carried out here. The ward sister here is Kate Reeves.

## **Clinical trials nurses**

An important part of caring for patients with lung cancer is to continually try to improve treatment. For this reason, many patients may be asked if they would like to participate in a clinical trial. There are a team of research nurses, who will give you written information and help to explain and answer your questions about the proposed trial. Entry into clinical trials is entirely voluntary, and if you do not want to be involved the doctors will understand and respect your decision. It will not affect your care and treatment in any way.

## **Therapy radiographers**

Therapy radiographers are specialist practitioners who are involved in the planning and treatment of patients receiving radiotherapy. They can provide expert advice and support during your treatment.



## **Useful telephone numbers**

Allison Hunt, Catherine Lingham (Clinical Nurse Specialist Team) & Paula Foster (Support Worker)	0118 322 8994
Email: lungcancernurses@royalberkshire.nhs.uk	
Berkshire Cancer Centre Clinic	0118 322 7890
Macmillan Cancer Information Centre	0118 322 8700
Macmillan Citizens' Advice Bureau	0118 322 7657
Hospital Switchboard	0118 322 5111
Kennet Ward	0118 322 7491
Loddon Ward	0118 322 8818
Adelaide Ward	0118 322 7471
King Edward Ward	0118 322 7466
CAT 11 for respiratory admin queries	0118 322 1894
Email: rbb-tr.cat11@nhs.net	
Dr Adams' Secretary	0118 322 5362
Dr Cheung's Secretary	0118 322 7866
Mr Pilling's Secretary (Guy's)	0207 1881034
Hospital Supportive & Palliative Care Team	0118 322 7826
RBH Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS)	0118 322 8338

## National organisations

- Macmillan Support 0808 808 00 00 [www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)
- Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation 0333 323 7200  
[www.roycastle.org](http://www.roycastle.org)
- Mesothelioma UK 0800 169 2409 [www.mesothelioma.uk.com](http://www.mesothelioma.uk.com)
- Dept. of Work and Pensions  
[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions)

# Notes

To find out more about our Trust visit [www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk](http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk)

**Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.**

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