The Gynaecological Oncology Multi-Disciplinary Team
Information for patients and carers
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If you would like this document in another language or format, or require the services of an interpreter, contact us on 020 3447 8636. We will do our best to meet your needs.

1. Introduction
You have been given an appointment to attend a consultation in the Gynaecological Oncology Clinic at the University College Hospital Macmillan Cancer Centre. This is either because tests have been performed which show that you have a confirmed gynaecological cancer, or because the test results suggest further investigations or treatment are required to rule out a cancer diagnosis.

On your first visit to the Cancer Centre your symptoms and needs will be assessed by the medical team and, if needed, a specialist nurse.

Any appropriate tests or investigations will be arranged and reviewed by the Gynaecological Oncology Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) before a definitive treatment plan can be offered.

We understand that coming to a Cancer Centre can be very worrying. We encourage you to bring a friend or relative to your first clinic appointment, and any additional clinics, to give you support and help you remember what has been discussed.

Your clinic appointment
As a large gynaecology centre we receive referrals from all over London and also from neighbouring counties and further afield. This results in a busy clinic but we endeavour to see our patients promptly and as near to their appointment time as possible.

As we want to ensure that every patient’s needs are met during their consultation, our clinics can sometimes run behind schedule. Clinic reception staff within the Outpatients Department will keep you as updated as possible.
2. The Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)
This booklet provides information about the Gynaecological Oncology Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) and how it can help you through the treatment you’ll receive.

An MDT is a team of professionals who will be caring for and supporting you at University College Hospital. This team consists of experts in different areas of medicine, nursing and supportive care.

As treatment is planned according to each patient’s individual needs, you may not see all members of the team featured in this booklet.

3. Members of the MDT
Consultant gynaecological oncology surgeons
As part of your cancer treatment you may require surgery. The surgeon treating you will be a specialist in performing the type of surgery you require.

Our consultant surgeons are:

- Miss Nicola MacDonald
- Mr Tim Mould
- Miss Adeola Olaitan
- Professor Martin Widschwendter
- Mr Konstantinos Doufekas.

Contact via service coordinator: 020 3447 8636

Consultant clinical and medical oncologists
Oncologists are specialists in the chemotherapy or radiotherapy treatment used to treat your type of cancer.

Consultant clinical oncologists are doctors who use radiotherapy (high energy X-rays) to treat patients with gynaecological cancers.
Clinical oncologists also prescribe chemotherapy as part of your cancer treatment. Our consultant clinical oncologists are:

- Dr Mary McCormack
- Dr Anita Mitra

**Medical oncologists** are doctors who use cancer drugs, including chemotherapy (anti-cancer drugs), to treat patients with gynecological cancers. Our consultant medical oncologists are:

- Dr Rebecca Kristeleit
- Professor Jonathan Ledermann
- Dr Michelle Lockley.

Contact via service coordinator: **020 3447 8025**

**Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs)**

Clinical Nurse Specialists are qualified nurses with specialist training and extensive experience in treating patients with your type of cancer. They offer advice and support throughout your diagnosis, treatment and follow-up.

Your CNS also acts as your **key worker** during your treatment, which means they are a consistent point of contact for you, your family and any professionals involved in your care.

They can be contacted between 09:00 and 17:00, Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays).

Our CNS team consists of three specialist nurses/key workers and can be contacted via the service coordinator on **020 3447 8636**.

**Consultant radiologists**

Consultant radiologists are specialists in examining and interpreting X-rays, CT and MRI scans, bone scans and other diagnostic tests used to investigate your disease.
Consultant histopathologist

Consultant histopathologists are specialists in examining tissue taken from biopsies or at operations to diagnose disease and confirm or exclude the diagnosis of cancer.

Other members of the MDT (as applicable)
There are other specialists such as clinical psychologists, physiotherapists, pharmacists, occupational therapists, dietitians, social workers, the palliative care team and research nurses who are part of the extended MDT. You may be referred to these specialists if appropriate.

4. The Gynaecological Oncology Multi-Disciplinary Team meeting (MDM)

The Gynaecological Oncology MDT meeting takes place on Tuesday afternoons and is attended by the entire gynaecological oncology team, including your key worker/CNS. It is an opportunity for the clinical team to meet to discuss your case and review your treatment. This helps them to plan and assess treatment.

MDT meetings help ensure that patients have input from all available experts, who collectively devise the best treatment plan.

5. What happens after the MDT meeting?

After your case has been discussed at the MDT meeting, the recommendations are recorded in your notes. It is likely that an appointment will be made with your consultant and/or CNS to discuss the outcome further, or you may be called to have further investigations.

In some cases it may be more appropriate to refer you to another specialist team, in which case we will contact you to advise you of this.
Your treatment plan
It is important that you understand what your treatment involves. Please feel free to ask questions to clarify anything about your care plan that is not clear. We will do our utmost to answer your questions clearly and honestly. We will also give you written information about your diagnosis and treatment to support the discussions you will have with members of our team. We will explain any aspects of the written information you may need help with.

Before your appointment we recommend that you write down any questions you wish to ask us and we will answer them when we see you.

6. Holistic Needs Assessment
We know that having investigations and treatment can affect your quality of life in different ways. We will therefore offer you a Holistic Needs Assessment (HNA) which will involve questions relating to your general wellbeing, social situation and support network. It will also help identify any particular issues or concerns you may have, to ensure we are offering you the most appropriate care plan.

7. Research at University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (UCLH)
Where appropriate, you may be asked if you would like to be involved in a research trial. You are not under any obligation to participate. You will be informed of the possible risks and benefits of being involved and provided with all the information you need to make an informed decision. If you decide to participate, you have the right to withdraw your participation at any time. You will not have to give a reason for withdrawing and it will not have any adverse effects on your future care.
8. Out of hours advice
If you are currently receiving treatment at UCLH and have a medical emergency out of hours and need to speak to someone, please go to A&E or ring the emergency contact number given to you by your CNS (this will depend on the treatment you are currently receiving).

If you are awaiting your first appointment at UCLH, having been referred by a consultant at another hospital (e.g. Barnet, Chase Farm, Whittington, Royal Free, North Middlesex or Princess Alexandra Hospital Harlow), you should contact your local A&E or the emergency contact number given to you by your local team or CNS.

9. Communicating with you and your GP
Your GP will be informed within 24 hours of your diagnosis and will be included in all correspondence regarding your diagnosis, treatment and care. You will also be automatically copied into this correspondence. If there is anything you do not understand in the letters that you receive, please bring them with you to your next appointment and we will be happy to discuss any issues with you.

If you do not wish to receive any correspondence please inform your consultant or CNS.

10. The Macmillan Support and information Service
The Macmillan Support and Information Service is based on the ground floor of the University College Hospital Macmillan Cancer Centre, Huntley Street.

It provides a relaxed and informal space where patients and their families and friends can ask questions and talk through their concerns with specialist staff. The team offers support at any stage of a patient’s experience with cancer.

Visitors can access a range of information resources, including leaflets and booklets. Patients can be referred to appropriate
services such as complementary therapy, the wig service, the
dietitian, welfare and benefits advisers and the psychological and
emotional care team.

There is also a programme of supportive activities on offer to help
patients manage the effects of their treatment and meet other people
who have shared similar experiences.

Visiting the Macmillan Support and Information Service does not
require an appointment and the team ensure that visitors are seen as
quickly as possible.

Address: University College Hospital Macmillan Cancer Centre,
Ground Floor, Huntley Street, London WC1E 6AG

Telephone: 020 3447 8663

Email: supportandinformation@uclh.nhs.uk

11. Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)
PALS is a patient-friendly, easy-to-access service designed to
provide a personal contact point to assist patients, relatives and
carers. If you have a problem that you have not been able to resolve,
PALS can help you.

The University College Hospital PALS office is located on the ground
floor of the main hospital building and is open from 09:00 to 16:00,
Monday to Friday.

Telephone: 020 3447 3042

Email: PALS@uclh.nhs.uk

Address: University College Hospital, 235 Euston Road, NW1 2BU
12. Contact details for the Gynaecological Oncology Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)

If you have not yet attended the Cancer Centre, and are unsure about why you have been referred, please contact your local hospital doctor or GP who will be able to explain their decision.

If you need to change your appointment, please call 020 3447 8636 as soon as possible.

If you have a query related to chemotherapy or radiotherapy, please call 020 3447 8025

Space for notes and questions
13. How to find us
Address: University College Hospital Macmillan Cancer Centre
Huntley Street, London, WC1E 6AG
Switchboard: 0845 155 5000 or 020 3456 7890: extension 78636