The Skin Cancer 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 8663. We will do our best to meet your needs.

1. Introduction
This booklet provides information about the skin cancer multidisciplinary team (MDT). This team is also called the dermatology MDT.

A MDT is a team of professionals who will be caring for and supporting you at University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (UCLH). This team consists of experts in different areas of skin cancer medicine and care such as doctors, nurses, dieticians and physiotherapists.

2. The skin cancer service
Our clinic is in the Dermatology Department at University College Hospital in the Mortimer Market Centre. We have asked you to come to this clinic either because your tests have confirmed skin cancer, or because you need further tests or investigations to rule out cancer.

On your first visit the medical team will assess your symptoms and, if needed, a specialist nurse will also see you. We will arrange any appropriate tests or investigations and the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) will review the results before we offer a treatment plan.

We understand that coming to the department 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 dermatology department we receive referrals from all over London. We have a busy clinic but we try 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 will keep you informed.

**It is important that you understand what your treatment involves, and ask questions which help you understand your treatment and care.** We will give you written information on your diagnosis and treatment, in addition to the discussions you will have with members of your team.

It is easy to forget what you wanted to ask when you are actually seeing the doctor. You may find it helpful to write down any questions you would like to ask us before your appointment. This may help you to remember everything. We also strongly encourage you to bring a relative or friend with you to the clinic. They can help you remember what has been discussed and offer you support.
3. Members of the MDT

Dermatologists and Dermatologic Surgeons
Dermatologists are doctors who specialise in treating skin conditions.

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 and is known as a Dermatologic Surgeon.

Clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) in cancer care
Clinical Nurse Specialists are qualified nurses with specialist training and extensive experience in treating patients with skin 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 08:30 and 16:30, Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays).

CNS name: ________________________________________
Contact Number: ____________________________________

Medical oncologist
Medical oncologists are doctors who use anti-cancer drugs, including chemotherapy, to treat patients with skin cancer.

Clinical oncologist
Clinical oncologists are doctors who use radiotherapy (high energy X-rays) and anti-cancer drugs such as chemotherapy or immunotherapy to treat patients with skin cancer.

The medical and clinical oncologists work closely together to plan and provide your treatment.
Plastic surgeon
Plastic surgeons (also known as reconstructive surgeons) perform specialist surgery to restore normal function or appearance. Surgery can be done under local anaesthetic or under general anaesthetic depending on the situation.

Radiologist
Radiologists are specialists in examining and interpreting X-rays, CT scans, MRI, bone scans and other diagnostic tests to diagnose disease.

Histopathologist
Histopathologists are specialists in examining tissue and cells taken from biopsies and other diagnostic tests to diagnose disease and confirm the type of cancer.

The MDT co-ordinator
The MDT co-ordinators are administrators who will plan the MDT meetings, ensuring that your care is discussed and that the clinical teams have all your medical information.

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

Please note that in clinic you may see a consultant or you may see another member of the medical team.
4. The skin cancer MDT meeting
The skin cancer MDT meeting takes place on Thursday afternoons and is attended by the entire dermatology 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 together make the best treatment plan for you.

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 we will give you an appointment with your consultant and/or CNS to discuss the outcome 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 let you know.

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 best 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.
6. Holistic Needs Assessment (HNA)

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). This involves 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. If you haven’t been offered an HNA, please speak to your key worker/CNS.

7. Out-of-hours advice

If you are currently receiving treatment at UCLH and have a medical emergency out of hours, 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 have been referred by a consultant at another hospital (e.g. Barnet, Chase Farm, Whittington, Royal Free, North Middlesex or Princess Alexandra Hospital Harlow), and are waiting for your first appointment at UCLH, you should contact your local A&E or the emergency contact number given to you by your local team or CNS.
8. Communicating with you and your GP
Your GP will be informed within 24 hours of your diagnosis and will be included in all letters regarding your diagnosis, treatment and care. You will also be automatically copied into these letters. 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 letters please inform your consultant or CNS.

9. Research Trials
UCLH runs a range of clinical studies aimed at improving knowledge, treatment and outcomes in cancer care. Your doctor will talk to you about whether you are suitable to take part in a research study. If you decide to take part, 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 impact on your care. If you have any questions about research, please speak to your specialist doctor or CNS and they can put you in touch with the research team.
10. The Macmillan Support and Information Service
The support and information specialists provide emotional support, practical advice, and information to anyone affected by cancer or red cell condition. The specialists are experienced healthcare professionals, who are based in the service. They can see patients, their families, and friends at any stage of their cancer or red cell condition. You do not need an appointment or referral.

There are information booklets and leaflets that you can take away with you. The specialists can help find information most helpful to you, including online searches.

There is a “Wellbeing programme” of courses and workshops to help you manage the impact of cancer on your life. The specialists can also refer you to:

- the wig service
- complementary therapies
- a dietitian
- welfare and benefits advisers
- the psychological and emotional care team.

You don’t need an appointment to visit the Macmillan Support and Information Service, 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 (enquiries for all services, including welfare and benefits)

**Email:** supportandinformation@uclh.nhs.uk

**Website:** www.uclh.nhs.uk/msis

**Opening hours:** 09:30 to 17:00, Monday to Friday.
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 been unable 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**
12. Other sources of information

Please note: UCLH cannot guarantee the quality of the information or advice provided by outside organisations and charities.

Macmillan Cancer Support
Provides support and information on the practical, social, and financial effects of cancer for patients and those close to them
www.macmillan.org.uk
0808 808 0000

Cancer Research UK
Cancer Research UK provide patient information on different types of cancer.
www.cancerresearch.org.uk
0808 800 4040

British Association of Dermatologists
A charity based on the practice, teaching, training and research of Dermatology.
www.bad.org.uk

Healthtalk.org
Information and support for a range of health issues from seeing and hearing people’s real life experiences.
www.healthtalk.org
13. Contact details
If you have not yet attended the Dermatology Department, 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 9224 as soon as possible.

**Mortimer Market Centre**
Capper Street , London, WC1 6JB

**Main hospital:**
**University College Hospital**
235 Euston Road, London NW1 2BU

Switchboard: 020 3456 7890 or 0845 155 500

(There is no additional service charge for using an 0845 number. The cost is determined by your phone company’s access charge.)

Website: [www.uclh.nhs.uk](http://www.uclh.nhs.uk)
14. Map

Bus Stops

- **N**: 10, 14, 24, 29, 73, 134, 390
- **P & Q**: 10, 18, 30, 73, 205, 390
- **S, T, U & R**: 24, 27, 29, 88, 134
- **V**: 18, 27, 30, 88, 205
- **Z**: 18, 30, 205

- Congestion Charge Zone
- Main entrance
Space for notes and questions