Hepato-Pancreatobiliary Cancer
Multi Disciplinary Team
Patient Information
Introduction
This booklet is for people who have been diagnosed with hepato-pancreatobiliary (HPB) cancers which include cancer of the liver (hepatic), pancreas, bile duct and gallbladder.

It tells you about the HPB cancer multidisciplinary team (MDT) and other health professionals who may be involved in your care.

Multidisciplinary Team Meeting
There is a multidisciplinary team (MDT) made up of health professionals with expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of HPB cancers.

Every week appointed members of the MDT meet at a multidisciplinary meeting (MDM) in the Royal Victoria Hospital. The team discusses the results of your tests. These results help the team decide on the best treatment plan for you.

The team’s decision will be discussed with you at your next appointment and you will be involved in the final decision about your treatment. Your GP will also be informed of this treatment plan.
The HPB multidisciplinary team is made up of the following core members.
You may not meet all of them but they will be involved in your care.

**Multidisciplinary Team Co-ordinator**
A MDT co-ordinator organises the team meetings and discussions and ensures your records are available to the team.

**Hepatologist**
A hepatologist is a specialist doctor who diagnoses and treats liver disease. Hepatologists may carry out diagnostic procedures or refer you to the HPB surgeon if required.

**Gastroenterologist**
A gastroenterologist is a doctor whose specialises in problems of the digestive system. Gastroenterologists also carry out procedures to relieve symptoms (or problems) the cancer is causing.

**Pathologist**
A pathologist is a specialist doctor who examines body tissue and cell samples under the microscope to identify the type of cancer you have.

**Radiologist**
A radiologist is a specialist doctor with expertise in the use of x-rays and scans to diagnose cancers.
**HPB Surgeon**
A HPB surgeon is a doctor who specialises in assessing and treating HPB cancers. Your surgeon will discuss the surgical choices for the type of cancer you have and carry out any necessary operations to remove the cancer.

**Oncologist**
An oncologist is a specialist doctor who treats cancer with a number of treatments including:
- radiotherapy (high energy rays to destroy cancer cells)
- chemotherapy (treatment with drugs to disrupt the way cancer cells grow)

**HPB Clinical Nurse Specialist**
A HPB clinical nurse specialist (CNS) is a nurse who specialises in the care of people with HPB cancers. The CNS can offer specialist advice, information and support to you and your family from diagnosis onwards and refer you to other services if you need them.

**Hospital Specialist Palliative Care Team**
The hospital specialist palliative care team provides expert advice on managing complex symptoms and offers support to you and your family from diagnosis onwards. The team works closely with everyone involved in your care to meet your needs and the needs of your family. Palliative care aims to improve your quality of life through assessing and managing physical symptoms as well as any emotional, spiritual and social issues you may have. Supportive and palliative care is available to everyone affected by cancer and is especially important if your cancer cannot be cured.

Supportive and palliative care can also be provided in your own home and other community care settings by a range of healthcare professionals including your GP and district nurse.
**Key Worker**
You will be allocated a key worker who helps to co-ordinate your care and who can discuss your diagnosis and treatment plan with you. Your key worker will be one of the health professionals listed above and may change throughout your treatment. If so, you will be informed of the name and contact details of your new key worker.

**Please do not hesitate to contact your key worker if you would like to discuss any aspect of your care.**

There are many health and social care professionals who provide care and support during and after your cancer diagnosis. Not everyone we mention in this booklet will be involved in your care but any member of the MDT can refer you to the following professionals if you need their support:

**Social Worker**
A social worker provides social care and support to help you, your family and carers to cope.

**Physiotherapist**
A physiotherapist advises on exercises and techniques to help manage your symptoms to maintain your independence and improve your quality of life.

**Occupational Therapist**
An occupational therapist helps you manage daily activities to maintain your independence and quality of life.
**Dietician**
A dietician specialises in food and nutrition. Your dietician can help plan a diet to suit your individual nutritional needs and help you manage any dietary problems you are having.

**Clinical Psychologist**
A clinical psychologist offers psychological and emotional support to you and your family.

**Therapy Radiographer**
A therapy radiographer is a specialist who plans and organises radiotherapy treatment. You will see the radiographer each time if you’re having radiotherapy treatment.

**Research Radiographer**
A research radiographer is a specialist radiographer who is involved with patients who take part in clinical trials involving radiotherapy.

**Research Nurse**
A research nurse is a specialist nurse who is involved with patients who take part in clinical trials.

**Chaplain**
A chaplain helps you to meet your religious, spiritual and pastoral needs whether you have a faith or not. A chaplain can contact other religious or cultural groups in the community to give you further support if you need it.
Cancer Support and Information Staff
Cancer information staff offer information and support to you and those who care for you. Macmillan Information Centres at Belfast City Hospital and the Royal Victoria Hospital offer a relaxing environment. You may talk in confidence to specially trained staff and volunteers who can guide you through a range of free information. The centres offer support services and can put you in touch with other sources of help and support, for example, benefits advice.

Information & Support Radiographer
A radiographer who can discuss any concerns you may have if you are having radiotherapy. The information and support radiographer can support you and your family before, during and after your treatment and refer you to other health professionals or services if you need them.

Where treatment is carried out
If you need:

• More tests or surgery - these may be carried out at any of the three hospitals within the Belfast Trust, either the Royal Victoria Hospital, Mater Hospital or Belfast City Hospital

• Radiotherapy - this will be carried out at the Northern Ireland Cancer Centre at Belfast City Hospital

• Chemotherapy - this will be carried out at the Bridgewater Suite or the Northern Ireland Cancer Centre at Belfast City Hospital. It may also be carried out at your local cancer unit if appropriate.
**Useful Contacts**
The names and telephone numbers of the professionals involved in your care are listed below. These may change as you progress through your treatment. You may wish to add additional names to this list.

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Information and Support

If you need further information and support you may use the following links:

**HPB Clinical Nurse Specialist**
Tel: 028 9504 7409

**Belfast Trust Cancer Services Website**
http://belfasttrust-cancerservices.hscni.net/

**Macmillan Support & Information Centre, Belfast City Hospital**
Tel: 028 9063 8980
Email: cancerinfo@belfasttrust.hscni.net

**Macmillan Information Service, Royal Victoria Hospital**
Tel: 028 9063 0022
Email: cancerinfo.royal@belfasttrust.hscni.net

**Northern Ireland Cancer Network**
www.cancerni.net

**Cancer Survivorship website for Northern Ireland**
www.survivorship.cancerni.net

**Northern Ireland Cancer Trials Centre**
Tel 028 9063 8468
www.qub.ac.uk/nictc
Email: nictc@belfasttrust.hscni.net

**Macmillan Cancer Support**
www.macmillan.org.uk
Macmillan Support Line: 0808 808 0000
Cancer Focus
Tel 028 9066 3281
www.cancerfocusni.org
Email: hello@cancerfocusni.org
Helpline: 0800 783 3339

Action Cancer
Tel: 028 9080 3344
www.actioncancer.org
Email: info@actioncancer.org

British Liver Trust
Tel: 0800 652 7330
www.britishlivertrust.org.uk
Email: info@britishlivertrust.org.uk

Pancreatic Cancer UK
Tel: 020 3535 7099
www.pancreaticcancer.org.uk
Email support@pancreaticcancer.org.uk

Pancreatic Cancer Action
Tel: 0303 040 1770
www.pancreaticcanceraction.org
Email enquiries@panact.org

RVH Liver Support Group
Tel: 07737718493
www.rvhliversupportgroup.org
Email info@rvhliversupportgroup.org

Cancer Research UK Patient Information
www.cancerhelp.org.uk
Tel: 0808 800 4040
This information can be made available on request in alternative formats and in other languages to meet the needs of those who are not fluent in English.