Skin Cancer
Multi Disciplinary Team
Patient Information
Introduction

This booklet is for people who have been diagnosed with skin cancer.

It tells you about the skin 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 skin cancer.

Every week appointed members of the MDT meet at a multidisciplinary meeting (MDM) in Belfast City 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.

Members of the Multidisciplinary Team

The skin 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.
Dermatologist

A dermatologist is a doctor who specialises in diagnosing and treating skin disorders including skin cancer. Dermatologists may carry out a biopsy or minor operation to diagnose the type of skin cancer. Depending on the type and size of skin cancer you have, your first biopsy or minor surgery may be the end of your treatment. Your dermatologist may see you again if you need further surgery or treatment or refer you to another member of the MDT.

Surgeon

You may need further surgery after your biopsy or minor operation. This may involve specialist surgical techniques or procedures which a dermatologist or plastic surgeon will carry out. A plastic surgeon is a doctor who does operations to remove all or part of the cancer you have. Your surgeon will be a specialist in doing operations on your kind of cancer. Surgeons can also do operations to relieve or cure any symptoms (or problems) your cancer is causing. Depending on the type of surgery you need, it will be carried out at either:

• Royal Victoria Hospital
• Belfast City Hospital
• Ulster Hospital
• Lagan Valley Hospital.
**Oncologist**
An oncologist is a doctor who specialises in and treats cancer with a number of treatments including:
- radiotherapy (high energy X-rays to destroy cancer cells)
- chemotherapy (treatment with drugs to disrupt the way cancer cells grow)

If you need radiotherapy and /or chemotherapy this will be carried out at the Northern Ireland Cancer Centre, Belfast City Hospital.

**Radiologist**
A radiologist is a specialist doctor who reviews any x-rays or scans needed to help in the diagnosis.

**Pathologist**
The tissue taken from your biopsy or minor operation will be sent to a pathologist. The pathologist examines this underneath the microscope to identify the type of cancer.

**Dermatology Nurse Practitioner**
A dermatology nurse practitioner is a nurse with advanced knowledge and experience of skin conditions who can offer you support from diagnosis to after treatment. You may be referred to the nurse practitioner for screening of moles or other skin lesions. If necessary, the nurse practitioner can carry out any minor surgery you need.

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 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 to 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.
**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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For information and support

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

Dermatology Nurse Practitioner
Tel 028 9504 8162

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
Macmillan Support Line: 0808 808 0000
www.macmillan.org.uk
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

Cancer Research UK Patient Information
Tel: 0808 800 4040
www.cancerhelp.org.uk

Changing Faces
Tel: 0845 4500 732
www.changingfaces.org.uk
Email: info@changingfaces.org.uk