



**West Hertfordshire
Teaching Hospitals**
NHS Trust



A guide to...

Upper GI Cancer Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)

Patient information

Upper GI cancer services

Watford General Hospital

Hemel Hempstead Hospital

St Albans City Hospital

How will this leaflet help me?

This leaflet will tell you about the Upper GI (oesophagus, and stomach) multidisciplinary team (MDT) and give you the names and contact details of some of the team members.

It will help you understand how the multidisciplinary team (MDT) functions within West Hertfordshire Teaching Hospitals Trust. Your care is planned and delivered by this team, however, in some instances, you may be required to attend Mount Vernon or the Hammersmith Hospitals but this will depend on your treatment plan. In other circumstances, there may be no treatment but you will be advised how you will be monitored. We aim to always keep you informed and in as a timely a manner as possible.

This leaflet is not intended to be a substitute for discussion with doctors and nursing staff, but we hope that by reading it, you will find it easier to ask questions and discuss your investigations and treatment with the Upper GI Team.

Your investigations and treatment might vary depending on your particular circumstances so please read this leaflet as a guide.

Your future appointments could be at Watford, St Albans City, Hemel Hempstead Hospital, the Hammersmith Hospitals or at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre.

What investigations and tests may be needed?

You may already have had some investigations, but you may need more to give the team as much information as possible to ensure you have the most appropriate treatment.

Common tests include:

- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scan
- Computed Tomography (CT) and Bone scans
- Ultrasound Scan (USS)
- Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scan at Mount Vernon
- Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS)
- Biopsies (tissue samples)
- Blood tests and X-rays
- Laparoscopy (key hole examination under anaesthetic)

The Upper GI Cancer Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)

This is a specialist team of health professionals which includes:

- A consultant surgeon – who specialises in Upper GI surgery
- An oncologist – a consultant doctor who specialises in treating cancer
- Macmillan clinical nurse specialist – a specialist nurse who provides advice, information and support regarding your diagnosis
- A radiologist – a consultant doctor who specialises in examining scans and x-rays
- A histopathologist – a consultant doctor who specialises in examining tissue samples in a laboratory
- A consultant gastroenterologist - specialises in illness affecting the digestive system
- Dietitian - specialised in advising on nutrition
- Physiotherapist - specialised in advising on exercise and recovery before and after having an operation.

The Upper GI cancer MDT (meets every week on a Monday from 12.00pm. During this meeting, the Upper GI team will discuss your case and your test results and decide on the most appropriate treatment options for you.

Following the meeting, when you attend your next clinic appointment with your team of consultants, the options will be discussed with you and help you make an informed choice.

This appointment can be at either Watford General Hospital, Hemel Hempstead Hospital or St Albans City Hospital.

The next step

Once you have an upper GI cancer diagnosis the treatment may include some or all of the following:

- Chemotherapy - usually administered at Mount Vernon Hospital
- Endoscopy procedures - Watford General Hospital
- Radiotherapy - always done at Mount Vernon Hospital
- Surgery - always done at Hammersmith Hospital
- Clinical trials - always done at Mount Vernon Hospital

What information and support is available?

The Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) is your key worker during your investigations and treatment at the hospital.

The key worker is the person who you can contact directly to talk about your care and treatment. There is a team of Clinical Nurse Specialists who provide the key worker role. They are specially trained in Upper GI cancers and offer a holistic assessment with advice, emotional support and information to patients and their families.

Your key worker will make sure that you have written information about the type of cancer you have and treatment you may need. Some of this information will be booklets produced by national cancer organisations which have been approved by cancer charities and patients' organisations. Your key worker can advise you about benefits that may be available for you and about free prescriptions for cancer patients.

The Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) in your team are :

Jennifer Meller

Tel: 01923 436021 or 07388 993785

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

Emma Alway

Tel: 01923 436021 or 07816 196282

(Monday to Thursday)

Upper GI Consultants

Mr Stefan Antonowicz, Consultant Surgeon
Secretary: TBA
Tel: **01923 217876**

Mr Jeremy Livingstone, Consultant Surgeon
Secretary: TBA
Tel: **01923 217876**

Dr Paul Wolfson, Consultant Gastroenterologist (MDT Lead)
Secretary: Aditya Datla
Tel: **01442 287041**

Dr Anthony Leahy, Consultant Gastroenterologist
Secretary: Joseph Chukwudi
Tel: **01923 217291**

Dr Mark Fullard, Consultant Gastroenterologist
Secretary: Matthew Jacobs
Tel: **01442 287060**

Dr Mohamed Shariff, Consultant Gastroenterologist
Secretary: Rebecca Sanders
Tel: **01442 287633**

Dr Arash Vaziri, Consultant Gastroenterologist
Secretary: Shiyara Omerdeen
Tel: **01923 217893**

Dr Neel Bhuvra, Consultant Oncologist
Secretary: Letitia Dixon
Tel: **020 3826 2512**

Dr Vasiliki Michalarea, Consultant Oncologist
Secretary: Letitia Dixon
Tel: **020 3826 2512**

In addition there are Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Centres where you can visit and receive information. These centres are located at:

Macmillan Information and Support Centre, Watford General Hospital, level 2 of the main building, opposite main reception.
Tel: **01923 436 326**

Lynda Jackson Centre, Mount Vernon Cancer Centre, Northwood.
Tel: **020 3826 2555**

The Macmillan Helpline: **0808 808 0000**
www.macmillan.org.uk

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

The Trust's PALS is available to patients and families who would like to raise any concerns or issues with the way that they have been treated. This service can be contacted on **01923 217 198** or westherts.pals@nhs.uk.

Useful contact numbers (to main switchboard)

Watford General Hospital	01923 244 366
Hemel Hempstead Hospital	01442 213 141
St Albans City Hospital	01727 866 122
Mount Vernon Hospital	020 3826 2020
Hammersmith Hospital	020 3313 1000

