



*Better
Together*

Patient information

Lymphoma / Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia (CLL) Team Information

Department of Haematological Oncology
(Blood Cancers)

You have been referred to the Lymphoma/ Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL) specialist team that is responsible for the management of these blood disorders at the Royal.

We hold clinics on Monday and Wednesday mornings on the second floor of the Linda McCartney building.

Monday clinics are usually for new patients who are still having tests to determine their diagnosis, or patients returning for results of tests.

Some people on treatment may still attend this clinic as required by their treatment schedule.

Wednesday clinics are usually for people having treatment or being monitored after treatment.

Some people have conditions that just require monitoring and these people attend this clinic too.

When you first come to see us, you may need to have a biopsy (removal of a small piece of tissue under local anaesthetic) performed and/or a scan to help us work out your diagnosis.

This may require an appointment with another team. Usually this is done within a couple of weeks.

Once you have had a biopsy it takes around two weeks to get these results. Scans typically take a week to be reported.

Our team is made up of the following members:

- Consultant Haematologist
- Specialist Registrar
- Advanced Nurse Practitioner
- Nurse Specialist
- Research Nurse
- Pharmacist.

These are the people you are most likely to meet when you come for your appointment.

Consultant Haematologists:

These are experts in diagnosing and treating Lymphoma/CLL. They will discuss your diagnosis and possible treatment options if required at different stages of the disease.

Many patients may be eligible for treatment as part of a research study or clinical trial; your consultant will advise you if this is a potential and appropriate option for you. Please also let us know if you are interested in clinical trials.

In our team we have three consultants:

- Professor Andrew Pettitt
- Dr Nagesh Kalakonda
- Dr Arvind Arumainathan.

You may meet one or all of them. Even if you do not always see a consultant, rest assured that they still supervise the care you receive, and will be aware of and directly involved in the plan for you.

Specialist Registrar:

This is a senior doctor who has chosen to become a consultant haematologist and is working towards this. There is no specific registrar in our team as they rotate through different teams as part of their training.

Advanced Nurse Practitioner/ANP:

This is a senior specialist nurse. There are three ANPs in the Haematology department.

- Chris Ward
- Craig Simon
- Ian Hinks.

These nurses may assess you if you attend the hospital unwell and can prescribe medicines such as antibiotics. You may also see them at your clinic appointment.

Nurse Specialist/Key Worker:

This is a senior nurse specialising in caring for people with Lymphoma/CLL. They are there to help and support you as well as coordinate your care in hospital and at home.

The specialist nurse acts as a bridge between you and the doctor and helps you to understand the information you've been given.

It can be an overwhelming experience receiving a diagnosis and trying to understand the consequences for you and your family. The nurse plays a major role in supporting you with this.

For our team the senior specialist nurse is Lauren Morris. As well as Lauren, there is another specialist nurse called Hayley Wilson.

One of these nurses will be your main contact throughout your treatment and follow up.

Research Nurse:

There are two research nurses in our team

- Jane Tinsley
- Darren Keats.

If you decide to have your treatment as part of a clinical trial, one of these will act as your specialist nurse. They will coordinate your treatment and act as your support and guide throughout.

Senior Pharmacist:

For our team this is Dan Collins.

The senior pharmacist ensures that any treatment/chemotherapy you receive is prescribed and administered correctly. He/she will often review any medications you are already taking to make sure no interactions take place.

Any queries relating to medicines/chemotherapy are dealt with by the pharmacist.

He will often see you at your clinic appointment when you are on active treatment and ensure that you are ready for your next treatment dose and are tolerating the treatment well.

These are the main members of our team. However, there are other specialists who contribute to your care.

Histopathologist:

These are doctors who are experts at identifying cancer cells and carrying out special tests to help our team determine the best treatment option for you.

Radiologist:

These are doctors specially trained to carry out diagnostic tests and interpret X-rays and scans, i.e. CT, PET, Ultrasound.

Clinical Oncologist:

Sometimes you may require radiotherapy as part of your treatment. Our Monday clinic takes place alongside the radiotherapy clinic. If your consultant feels this would be of benefit to you, you will be referred to their clinic so you can discuss this directly with them.

Patient Counsellor:

Linda Boyne is the counsellor for Haematology. She supports patients and their families and works Mondays and Tuesdays. She can meet people face to face or speak over the telephone. Linda also runs the patient support group which takes place monthly.

If you feel you'd like to join the group or speak to Linda privately, please ask one of the team.

Clinical Psychologists:

Sometimes patients require more advanced psychological support. Often one of the team will suggest this to you if they feel it is in your best interests. You may then be referred to the psychology specialist team who will see you separately.

Lymphoma/CLL Multi-disciplinary team (MDT) meetings:

Whoever sees you when you come to clinic will discuss the plan with the whole team in a meeting afterwards. This is to ensure that everyone is aware of any tests/results awaited and can agree/contribute to the plan for your treatment.

There is also a formal review of your diagnosis and scans which involves the Histopathologist and Radiologist as well as our team. This takes place every Thursday morning.

All decisions about your care are ultimately taken by you with advice from us. If you feel you need further advice or opportunities to discuss anything mentioned in clinic, please contact the specialist nurse.

Places where treatment is given:

Some of our treatments are tablets or injections that are prescribed in the clinic and which you can take at home.

Some treatments involve you receiving drips which will be given during a visit to 7Y Day Ward.

Sometimes you will need treatment that involves you staying in the hospital. These will take place on ward 7Y.

The details of your treatment plan and any expected side-effects will be explained to you at a separate visit where you will be able to discuss and ask any questions that you might have.

This is usually done by either Lauren, Hayley, Jane, Darren or Dan.

We are aware that clinics can be stressful for some people, especially when there are often significant waits involved. We do all we can to try to ensure people have sufficient time to discuss their care. Unfortunately, this can often mean that there can be a delay to your appointment. We ask for your patience with this.

When you attend clinic you will need a blood test before you see the doctor/nurse. Please come to the clinic an hour before your appointment time so this can be taken and ready for you to be seen on time.

Alternatively, you might want to have your blood tests taken the day before clinic as this will reduce your waiting time on the day.

When you attend Linda McCartney there is a blood room on the second floor where you can have your samples taken.

However, we are always looking to improve our service and make it more efficient. If you have any suggestions that might help with this, we would very much like to hear them. Similarly, if you have any complaints, please speak to one of the team and we will do our best to resolve it.

Lastly, we recognise that you are attending our clinic because you need to, not through choice. We hope that you will come to see the team as a source of advice and support and that you will form useful relationships with those of us that you come into contact with.

Further information:

Jane Tinsley/Darren Keats can be contacted on

Tel: 0151 706 4886

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 4886

Email: jane.tinsley@rlbuht.nhs.uk/darren.keats@rlbuht.nhs.uk.

Lauren Morris can be contacted on

Tel: 0151 706 2234

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2234

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