



Your pre-chemotherapy group consultation at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre

An appointment has been made for you to attend a pre-chemotherapy group consultation. The aim of this session is to help prepare you for your chemotherapy by providing important information on what to expect, how to manage any side-effects and who to contact if you need advice. If anything in your appointment letter is unclear, please bring it with you and staff will be happy to explain it to you.

Where is the session held?

The sessions are held at the Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre (LJMC) next to the Chemotherapy Suite. Both the LJMC and the Chemotherapy Suite are located outside the main cancer centre building. The closest hospital entrance is Gate 3 on White Hill, where there are three small car parks. SatNav users: use postcode WD3 1PZ. Please check in at the Chemotherapy Suite reception desk before going to the LJMC.

Who will lead the session?

A chemotherapy nurse from Mount Vernon Cancer Centre will lead the session. Following the session, a trained volunteer from the LJMC will show you around the clinic and treatment areas and arrange any pre-treatment tests required. Tea and coffee will be available.

Can I bring a friend/relative?

We encourage you to bring a friend or relative with you to the group session. Due to the small size of our room, please limit this to one person.

How long will it take?

Please allow 2-3 hours for the consultation and pre-treatment tests.

Should I take notes?

Please feel free to take notes. You will be given a pre-treatment information pack that includes in writing, all the information that will be provided during the session.

Why are the pre-chemotherapy sessions held in groups?

The sessions are held in small groups of up to six patients together with their friend/relative. It allows information to be given in a way that ensures important points are covered for all patients. Previous patients have commented that they prefer the group sessions as 'other people asked questions I did not think of' and 'listening in a group helped, as I felt less alone'.

Will all the patients be having the same treatment as me?

When possible, we invite patients with a similar diagnosis and/or chemotherapy regimen to attend the group consultations together. However, this is not always possible.

Can I ask questions in private?

The nurse is available both before and after the session to answer any questions that you may want to ask in private. Please let the nurse know if you would like to speak with her in a private setting.

What if I cannot attend?

The information session and pre-treatment tests are needed before starting chemotherapy, so another date will be arranged. Please call the chemotherapy booking line on 020 3826 2452, if you are unable to make your pre-chemotherapy session.

What if a group session may not be right for me?

If English is not your first language or you have any special needs, please contact us as soon as possible prior to the session on 020 3826 2452 to arrange a one to one session.

Tips on the day

Please arrive 30 minutes before the appointment time to allow time to check in, be offered tea or coffee and get a chance to look over your information pack before the session.

Let staff know if you have any particular needs on the day:

- Do you need a wheelchair for the tour?
- Would you like a chair with a straight back?
- Are you hard of hearing?
- Do you have difficulty with your vision?
- Do you have any other appointments at the hospital booked on the same day?

Services at the Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre (LJMC)

Your tour volunteer will explain to you the services that are available at the LJMC such as:

- Complementary therapies
- Relaxation classes
- Counselling
- Benefits advice
- Look Good Feel Better™ (an enjoyable and informative make-up group session for patients)

Please let them know if you are interested.

A larger map can be seen at www.ljmc.org. If you need information about disabled parking, please phone the LJMC 020 3826 2555.

Car Park E is located opposite Car Park F.

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NOT TO SCALE

Parking

A Pay & Display parking scheme operates 24 hours a day. Patients attending the Cancer Centre can buy tokens to pay for parking at a reduced rate. One token costs £1 and allows you to park for up to twelve hours.

You can park free for 30 minutes by pressing the green button on the Pay & Display machine and displaying the ticket. This gives you time to buy tokens from the Post Room which is located at the main entrance by Patient Affairs and is open Monday - Friday, 8.30am - 12pm and 1pm-4pm or from the Information Point desk near the Cancer Centre reception. You will need to show your appointment card/letter and have a £1 coin for each token needed. Change is available in the Oak Tree Restaurant or outside Wards 10 and 11.

You need to put one token into the Pay & Display machine each day you park, which will give you a ticket for you to display on your dashboard.

No parking is permitted on the roads that run through the hospital.

