

They will give you advice when they visit you on the ward. We aim to get you well enough to return home safely, and at times we may need to offer you help at home such as arranging equipment or homecare assistance and/or asking a district nurse to visit you after discharge from hospital.

A nurse will be happy to fill in a medication chart on your discharge if you request this.

Discharge information surgical oncology unit

If following discharge from the surgical oncology unit you experience any problems that you feel may be related to your surgery, please contact the unit on the numbers on the front of this leaflet. The staff may be able to offer advice over the phone, but if necessary we may ask you to come back to The Christie so that a doctor can see you.

If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

The Christie is committed to producing high quality, evidence based information for patients. Our patient information adheres to the principles and quality statements of the Information Standard. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact the-christie.patient.information@nhs.net

For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham, Salford or Macclesfield. Opening times can vary, please check before making a special journey.

Contact The Christie Hotline for urgent support and specialist advice
The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Surgical oncology unit information

(Department 4)

Surgical oncology unit: 0161 446 3860 or 0161 446 3862

Critical care unit: 0161 446 3481

Lauren Toman, ward manager, surgical oncology unit

Ward visiting times

Visiting hours are 14:00 - 15:00 and 18:00 - 19:00. This allows time for the ward to be cleaned thoroughly. If you visit outside these times or wish to bring children under 5, please speak to the nurse in charge first. Please note that only 1 visitor is allowed at the bedside unless discussed in advance with the ward manager or sister.

Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS+)

Throughout our surgical department we adopt the principles of Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS+). The aim of ERAS+ is to reduce the risks of surgery-related complications and get you back to your daily activities as soon as possible. For further details, please visit www.christie.nhs.uk

Mobile phones

You may use your mobile phone on the ward but this is at the discretion of the ward manager. You must keep it on 'silent' to avoid disturbing other patients. To respect patient confidentiality, camera phones must not be used to take images on the unit.



Meal and drinks arrangements

All meals are served in the day room. If you cannot walk to the day room, the nursing staff will bring the meal to you. Drinks and snacks are served at the bedside several times a day, but you can ask for one at any time. Please see your menu folder for meals and snacks available. If you require a special diet let your nurse know and we will arrange this for you.

Unless there are any special circumstances, we ask patients not to bring food that needs to be kept in a fridge. If it is necessary, the food should be shop bought and sealed with your name and the date you brought it in. Any food past the 'sell by' date will be thrown out. Please note that for health and safety reasons, staff are not permitted to re-heat patients' food.

We have introduced 'protected mealtimes' to give patients the opportunity to eat their meals without any interruptions. This is a period of time over lunch or dinner when non-urgent clinical activity stops. This allows nursing staff to monitor patients' nutritional needs. The nurses, catering staff and volunteers are available to help serve meals and assist patients who may need help. If you would like help to feed your relative at mealtimes, this would be welcomed by staff.

Medication

It may be possible for you to take your own medications whilst you are in hospital, but please check with the nursing staff or doctor before doing so and they will assess you. The approximate times of medicine rounds will be **8:00am, 12:45pm, 6:00pm and 10:00pm.**

Nursing arrangements

A nurse will carry out an 'admission interview' and will discuss and plan your care needs whilst you are on the ward. If you wish to speak to a senior member of staff, please speak to the ward manager or modern matron.

Flowers

We would like to remind patients and visitors that for infection control reasons we do not allow flowers on the unit.

Preventing slips and falls in hospital

People have a greater risk of falling while in hospital. This can be due to unfamiliar surroundings, feeling unwell or being weaker after surgery or treatment. The ward staff will assess each person on admission to determine their individual level of risk. Please tell the nursing staff if you have any worries about falling.

A few people are also at risk of falling out of bed. Bedrails attached to the sides of hospital beds reduce the risk of people accidentally slipping, sliding, falling or rolling out of bed. The staff will discuss attaching bedrails to the sides of your bed. However, for an independent person, bedrails may get in the way, and if there is a possibility that a person will try to climb over a bedrail, it is safer not to use them.

You can help reduce the risk of falling if you:

- wear well-fitting flat slippers or shoes
- use the nurse bell to call a nurse if you need help getting in or out of bed/chair
- be extra careful when you have a drip stand
- ask for help if you need assistance with a shower/bath
- do not overreach when in bed or a chair
- report any spillages to the ward staff

Safe discharge planning

Safe discharge planning should begin from the moment you are admitted to the ward. If you have difficulties coping at home, please tell us early on in your admission. Early referrals to the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) help us to make sure that patients receive appropriate help and support for their discharge. You may be assessed by various members of the MDT. These may include the complex discharge team, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and social workers.