

Can I opt out?

If you think this scheme will not work for you, please speak to a member of pharmacy staff at the dispensary or a member of The Christie cyclical dispensing team. We will work out how to ensure you are able to get your medicines when you need them.

Who should I contact if I have a problem?

The Christie cyclical dispensing team can be contacted for any queries about your medicine or your supply on **0161 918 7116** or **0161 956 1188**.

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 **patient.information@christie.nhs.uk**

For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham or Salford. 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



Pharmacy

The Christie cyclical dispensing scheme

A guide for patients and their carers

The medicine you have been prescribed will be supplied using our cyclical dispensing scheme. This leaflet will provide you with information about what this means for you and your prescriptions.

What is the cyclical dispensing scheme?

There are some medicines we use to treat cancer that only require you to see your consultant every few months to monitor your treatment and side effects. For these medicines you will be issued with a prescription for more than 1 cycle of your medicine at each appointment. For medicines which are a part of the cyclical dispensing scheme, the pharmacy will supply this in instalments; typically 1 cycle of medication will be supplied in each instalment.

Why can't I have my whole prescription at once?

The main purpose of the cyclical dispensing scheme is to cut down on wasted medicine. If, for any reason, you are advised not to take your medicine for a period of time or to stop taking your medicine completely you will not be left with a large supply of medicines which are no longer of any use.

There is a benefit to the NHS too. If we cut medicine waste it saves us money. This helps the NHS continue to provide medicines and improve treatment for people with conditions like yours.

It also means that if you are suffering from any side effects that may be related to your treatment we can assess them and refer you back to your oncology team sooner.

How does it work?

When you come to The Christie Pharmacy after your appointment you will be asked to provide a contact telephone number or email address. We will provide you with 1 cycle of your medicine on that day. 1 week before your next instalment is due, a member of the pharmacy team will contact you to find out how you are getting on with your treatment. Providing you are well and have not been advised to stop your treatment they will arrange the supply of your next instalment of medicine.

You should always come to The Christie Pharmacy after each clinic appointment if you have been told to continue your treatment **even if you have not yet run out of your medicine.**

How will I get the rest of my medicine?

There are 2 options:

1. You can come to The Christie Pharmacy to collect your medicine. If you let us know which day this will be we can ensure that your prescription is ready to collect when you arrive.
2. We can send your medicine in the post. This will be first class recorded delivery and there must be someone available at the address given to sign for the package. It will arrive before 1pm on a day agreed with you in advance. If you are not at home when the package arrives, you will be left a red 'something for you' card and the package will be taken to your local sorting office for collection.

Where will my medicine be delivered?

You can choose a delivery location that is convenient to you as long as you tell us who we are delivering it to. This may be your home, the home of a relative or friend or your place of work. Wherever you choose to have it delivered there must be someone available to sign for the delivery. This will be in the morning if delivered by post.

What if I am unable to receive a delivery?

If you are unable to receive a delivery for any reason you should let The Christie cyclical dispensing team know. You can do this by calling **0161 918 7116** or **0161 956 1188** or by sending an email to **pharmacy.homecare@christie.nhs.uk**

If you are going to be unable to receive or collect your medicine before you run out, for example if you are going on holiday, we can arrange to supply enough medicine for you until you get back or until your next appointment.