

Department of Clinical Oncology

# The Head and Neck Chemotherapy Clinic

## Introduction

Your consultant has referred you to Dr Andrew Sykes to be considered for further treatment. Dr Sykes is a Consultant Clinical Oncologist with a special interest in the treatment of head and neck cancer using chemotherapy.

## When will I attend the clinic?

You will receive an appointment to attend Dr Sykes's Thursday morning clinic, usually in two or three weeks time.

## Can I bring someone with me to this appointment?

It is often helpful to bring a family member or friend with you. It is always useful to have someone else present to remember what has been said and to help you to ask important questions.

## What will happen at the chemotherapy clinic?

At this clinic you will meet Dr Sykes and possibly other members of the team including:

Kathleen Mais            Head and Neck Nurse Clinician  
Beth Harland            Macmillan Head and Neck Specialist Nurse  
Specialist Registrars

## Will I have any tests when I come to the clinic?

One of the clinic assistants will measure your height or weight. You will also probably be asked to have a blood test and an ECG (cardiograph or heart tracing). These tests help us to work out the best treatment for you.

You may also be asked to have a special kidney test called a GFR, and you may need a further scan. If these are needed, these will be done at a later date.

## What should I bring to this appointment?

Please bring a list of any medications which you are currently taking, including the doses. If you are taking painkillers, please bring some with you in case you need to take some when you are at the hospital. Please also bring the name and contact number of your Community Macmillan nurse if you are under the care of one.

## Will I have chemotherapy at this visit?

No, this appointment is to find out how you are generally and to work out the best treatment for you. This will be considered on an individual basis. It may be that having chemotherapy is not the best treatment for you.



## Do I have to make a decision about whether to go ahead with treatment at this visit?

If you are offered treatment, you will be given some written information to take away with you. You might want to take time to discuss the information you have been given with your family, your Macmillan nurse or your GP. A further appointment can be made for you to discuss the treatment if you wish. If you do go ahead with chemotherapy, you will have a clinic appointment every time that you attend for treatment and you will be able to discuss any ongoing concerns or problems that you have with Dr Sykes's team.

## Will I be considered for clinical trials?

Yes - if a clinical trial is suitable for you. Dr Sykes will ask Dr Metcalf to see you. Dr Metcalf is a Consultant Medical Oncologist who specialises in head and neck clinical trials.

## Will my Christie consultant be kept up to date with my treatment?

Dr Sykes is part of the same team as your usual Christie consultant and will keep him or her updated about your condition and treatment. If you have any queries or concerns before you attend the chemotherapy clinic, you can contact one of the following people:

Kathleen Mais, Head and Neck Nurse Clinician	0161 446 3428 or 07539 527907
Beth Harland, Macmillan Head and Neck Specialist Nurse	0161 446 2424
Dr Sykes' secretary	0161 446 3354

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.

We try to ensure that all our information given to patients is accurate, balanced and based on the most up-to-date scientific evidence. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact [patient.information@christie.nhs.uk](mailto: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

