

Medical oncology

# Preparation for treatment with fluorouracil

You are starting a chemotherapy regimen containing a drug called fluorouracil (sometimes called 5-FU). You will have a central venous catheter (a line) inserted to give the chemotherapy.

There are a few things we need to do today to get you ready for this treatment.

Test/ procedure	How / where	Details
<b>MRSA Swabs</b>	The nurses in clinic will do this today before you leave	This needs to be done within 14 days of your line insertion.
<b>MRSA eradication treatment</b>	Pharmacy (department 36)	Go to pharmacy to collect MRSA eradication treatment – body wash and nasal cream. Just give them your name at the desk. These are to start <b>2 days</b> before your line is inserted.
<b>DPYD blood test</b>	Blood room (department 35)	You will be given a paper form for this to take to the blood room. This test takes at least 1 week to come back so we need to do it today to avoid any delays to your chemotherapy.
<b>Coagulation blood test</b>	Blood room (department 35)	If this wasn't done with your initial bloods we will need to do a further sample alongside the DPYD test. This is required prior to your line insertion

## You will be contacted with the following appointments for your treatment:

<b>Appointment for line insertion</b>	You will be contacted by the integrated procedure unit (IPU, department 2) with your appointment for this. We usually try to do this on the day of treatment, or just before. It is important that <b>if you take any blood thinning medication</b> (e.g. dalteparin, clopidogrel, aspirin, rivaroxaban, warfarin, etc) please let them know. They will advise when these need to be stopped in advance of the line insertion.
<b>COVID test appointment</b>	The chemotherapy schedulers will arrange an appointment for a COVID test which will be done within 48 hours prior to the start of your chemotherapy. This is required for all patients, even if you are vaccinated.
<b>Chemotherapy appointment</b>	You will be contacted by the chemotherapy schedulers with this appointment. Chemotherapy is given in the Oak Road treatment centre (department 1).



## Contact numbers for queries

Chemotherapy schedulers: **0161 918 7605**

IPU bookings: **0161 446 3446**

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](mailto:the-christie.patient.information@nhs.net)**

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