

# Acute oncology service (AOS) at Barnet Hospital

Information for patients

This leaflet provides information about the acute oncology service at Barnet Hospital.

The acute oncology team will work alongside your specialist team to provide a better, more seamless service if you are admitted to hospital unexpectedly. We are sometimes referred to as AOS and we work closely with therapists and symptom control specialists. If you attend Barnet Hospital emergency department, the team will make a referral to AOS so we can see you during your admission.

### **Members of the team**

The acute oncology service is made up of the following:

- clinical nurse specialists (CNSs)
- consultant oncologists for AOS

### **What does the team do?**

The team advises your medical team on your care if you become unwell and need to be admitted to hospital with complications from the cancer itself or from the treatment you have received, eg chemotherapy, radiotherapy and biological treatments.

### **Aims of the service**

We aim to:

- Provide professional support to staff and advice on the management of cancer related emergencies and complications of cancer treatments.

- Help improve the quality of care and co-ordinate tests and procedures required to help reduce the time you have to spend in hospital.
- Help avoid unnecessary admissions to hospital.
- Arrange appropriate referrals to other medical specialists so you have a seamless experience.
- Provide support and advice to GPs and other healthcare professionals looking after cancer patients in the community.
- Co-ordinate the diagnosis and treatment of metastatic spinal cord compression.

### **Contact information**

The working hours for the acute oncology service are, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. In Barnet hospital we can be contacted by the medical team on bleep 3928.

If you are on treatment and advice on urgent issues or new symptoms you can contact your chemotherapy day unit for advice. Out of hours call the main switchboard on 020 7794 0500 and ask for bleep 2237.

If you need advice about your appointment/treatment date or time, please call the secretary for your team, AOS will not be able to do this for you.

If you are calling for advice about your medication which is not for your cancer, please call the medicines

information department on 020 7830 2983, Monday to Friday, 11am to 5pm.

For support and advice on benefits please contact the Macmillan Citizens Advice Bureau on 020 8440 4227.

### **More information**

For more information about cancer services at the Royal Free London, please visit our website:

[www.royalfree.nhs.uk/services/services-a-z/cancer-services](http://www.royalfree.nhs.uk/services/services-a-z/cancer-services)

### **Your feedback**

If you have any feedback on this leaflet or for a list of references for it, please email:

[rf.communications@nhs.net](mailto:rf.communications@nhs.net)

### **Alternative formats**

This leaflet is also available in large print. If you need this leaflet in another format – for example Braille, a language other than English or audio – please speak to a member of staff.

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