

## Signs of Infection

It is important to be aware of any signs of infection as early as possible.

- If you have a temperature.
- If you feel unwell common signs of an infection can include- feeling shivery, a sore throat, pain when passing urine, a productive cough. You may not experience these symptoms but if you feel unwell or are unsure, please contact the Cancer Treatment helpline.

## A final word...

We will assess you and check your bloods before each treatment to ensure you are well enough, and that it is safe for you to proceed with treatment that week.

We want to keep you safe and well so please report back any side effects you are experiencing. Your treatments can be modified if necessary so it is better that we know as soon as possible if you have any problems.

Blood forms to take to the GP surgery will be provided by the nurse in the MacMillan Day Case Unit.

**These are the bloods which are checked.**

Urea and electrolytes

Liver function tests

Magnesium

Full blood count

Bone profile

Gamma Gt

Your bloods should be taken

---

Nurse will phone you

---

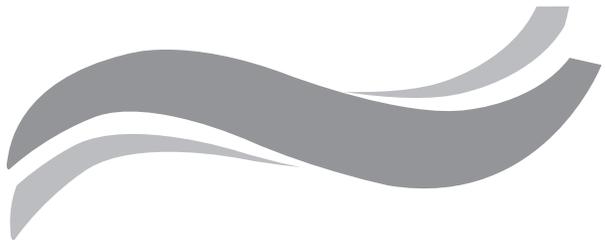
If you develop worsening side effects or have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact the **Cancer Treatment Helpline Number 0141 301 7990 (8am-8pm), or 0800-917-7711 (8pm-8am)**

Devised by Karen McDermott and Ashley Toner:  
August 2019

Approved by L. Webster: August 2019

## Information for Patients Receiving Gemcitabine and Cisplatin

### The Nurse Led Service Explained



**Gemcitabine & Cisplatin** are Chemotherapy Drugs used to treat cancer.

Your Oncologist or Clinical Nurse Specialist may have already explained this information to you; however it is useful to have knowledge of how your treatment pattern works before you attend for the first time.

**GP Bloods:** Before you attend for your treatment, we ask that you attend your local GP practice to have bloods taken. This should be 1-2 days prior to your chemotherapy appointment.

### **What is a Nurse Led Telephone Assessment?**

The Telephone assessment clinic is run on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon between 2pm and 5pm. Our nurse will let you know which specific day they will call. They are calling you to assess how you are, to check how well you have been since your last chemotherapy. This needs to be done before prescribing your next chemotherapy. It is important to be available and to be in an environment where the conversation can be clearly heard.

We need you to tell us about any symptoms or problems you have had which will allow your nurse to assess your wellbeing.

This treatment is a twenty one day cycle meaning two weeks of treatment, and one week of no treatment.

### **What happens when I come for treatment?**

#### **Day 1**

You will firstly attend a consultation at the outpatient clinic with your oncology team. After that you will go to your chemotherapy appointment the same day or the following day at the Macmillan Day Case Unit. Please remember you will need to have bloods taken 1-2 days prior to your chemotherapy appointment.

#### **Day 8**

For this treatment you will again attend your local GP for your pre chemotherapy bloods 1-2 days before you actually receive your treatment. As before, we will carry out a telephone assessment with your oncology nurse from the Macmillan Day Case Unit. They will advise you when to attend for your chemotherapy treatment.

#### **Day 15**

This is your week off.

**The following week the process is repeated starting Cycle 2 Day 1 as described above.**

### **Common Side Effects**

We have included some common side effects below, but these will all be discussed individually with you by your nurses.

Gemcitabine may cause flu like symptoms such as:

- Feeling hot, shivery or cold.
- Having a headache.
- Aching.

You may have these symptoms while the drug is being given or experience them several hours later. Your nurse may advise you to take paracetamol and drink plenty of fluids. If the symptoms do not improve after twenty four hours contact the cancer treatment helpline number we gave you on your first visit, but the details are also at the end of this leaflet.

Gemcitabine can cause a build up of fluid. It is common to have swollen ankles and legs, which can be helped by elevating your legs whenever possible.

Before you have your Cisplatin your nurse will give you extra fluids through your drip which is to protect your kidneys. It is important to drink at least 2 litres of fluids each day. Please contact your doctor or the helpline if you notice blood in your urine or if you're passing less urine than normal.