The Journey of your cancer medicine at Leeds Cancer Centre

NHS
The Leeds Teaching Hospitals
NHS Trust

1 Treatment plan

You may have an operation and/ or radiotherapy as well as medicines to treat your cancer. You will be given lots of information and opportunities to ask questions and you will be asked to sign a consent form. You will be told how often you need to have the medicines and for how long.

Clinical trials

If you are eligible for a clinical trial, you will meet the trials team to receive further information.

2 Prescription created

Your clinician will create the prescription for your cancer medicines. You will need to have specific blood tests, or other tests, such as your blood pressure and weight to make sure that the medicines are safe for you to receive.

Clinical trials

We will talk to you about this if we think you would be suitable.

3 Prescription authorised

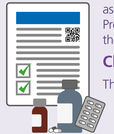
Specially trained members of the pharmacy team will safety check your prescription. They will need to know what other medicines you are taking and if you have any allergies.

4 Prescription processed

For medicines put directly into your vein, your prescription is sent to the pharmacy aseptic department for your medicine to be prepared. Prescriptions for medicines taken by mouth are sent to the out-patient pharmacy to be dispensed.

Clinical trials

The treatment may have to be sourced from specific stock and additional records are required, which may take longer.



5 Patient Check

Before every treatment, you will be assessed and have blood tests taken to check that you are well enough to receive your treatment. This is usually a few days before your treatment appointment and maybe face to face or over the telephone. If you experienced any side effects these may be managed by changing medicines.

6 Product preparation

Your medicine is prepared in a medical safety cabinet by a skilled operator. We must ensure accuracy, and this takes time. In most cases medicines are prepared in advance, but sometimes they are made up on the day of treatment if your blood tests need repeating, the medicines have a short use by date, or are high cost to reduce wastage. The aseptic (sterile) department also has to prepare other medication such as intravenous nutrition products and some antibiotics as well as cancer medicines.

7 Treatment ready for final checks

Your medicine receives a final check from a pharmacist to ensure it is safe to be given to you.

8 Treatment delivered

The medicine is packed into leak proof bags and delivered to the ward where it is stored safely until it is needed.

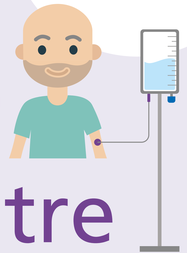
9 Treatment given to you

Medicines to treat your cancer are often given into your vein as an infusion (drip), some are injected under the skin and some are taken by mouth. These medicines take different times to administer - from a few minutes to several hours or even days. You may need to be an inpatient or take a small pump home that gives the medicine over a set time.

You will have to confirm your details before receiving each medicine and you will see the nurses checking the prescription and the medicine carefully before giving it to you.

Clinical trials

You may have your medicines administered in a specific trials area. You may need blood tests and other tests during the administration to monitor how your body is processing the medication.



10 Medicines to take home

You may receive some medicines to take home and a nurse or member of the pharmacy team will explain how to take them. Some may be part of your cancer treatment and others will be to help manage side effects.

11 After treatment

You will have a telephone number to call if you are at home and experience side effects. There is a unit to deal with problems if you are unwell. You may also have a clinical nurse specialist who you can talk to if you have concerns.

Clinical trials

If you are in a clinical trial, the team will keep in close contact with you to assess and support you through the treatment.

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