Introduction

This leaflet has been produced to give you general information about the services we provide for children with cancer. It is not intended to replace the discussion between you and your doctor, but may act as a starting point for discussion. If after reading it you have concerns or require further explanation, please discuss this with a member of the healthcare team who has been caring for you.

What is shared care?

Children with cancer need help from a variety of health professionals to diagnose and treat their conditions; this takes place in specialized Paediatric Oncology Centres, Paediatric Oncology Shared Care Units (POSCUs) and in the community. This is called the ‘shared care system. The Paediatric Oncology Centre or Principle Treatment Centre (PTC) in Leeds will be the lead centre in your diagnosis and treatment. The shared care system enables your child to receive some aspects of their care, closer to home or within the home environment when appropriate.

POSCU Oncology Team

The POSCU multidisciplinary team is made up of a number of different health professionals who work together to look after you and your child. Monthly meetings are held to discuss all patients to ensure that all members are updated on their progress. There is also frequent communication between the team and the oncology centre in Leeds about the care of your child.

**Paediatric Consultant:** Dr. Gill Sharpe is the lead Clinician for Paediatric Oncology in the POSCU and Dr. Liz Higgs is the Deputy Lead Clinician. All children with cancer in Calderdale and Huddersfield will be under their care and the medical staff on the wards will liaise with them if your child is admitted.

**Childrens Community Nursing Team:** You will be allocated a Childrens Community nurse (CCN) they will be available for advice and support. Your CCN will act as the named nurse for Calderdale and Huddersfield taking the key role in co-ordinating care and promoting continuity of care. The CCN team are based at both Calderdale Royal Hospital and at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary. The team work closely with the staff in Leeds at the PTC. The team cover 7 days and work between 8am and 5 pm.
In-patient Ward: Ward 3 at Calderdale Royal Hospital is where your child will be admitted if they need a blood transfusion, short stay investigations or an in-patient stay if this is agreed with the regional centre. The ward is located on the 2nd floor and can be accessed via the lifts located in the main entrance of the hospital opposite the main reception desk. The ward has open visiting arrangements for parents/carers and there are facilities for one parent to be resident on the ward. Additional information about the ward and other hospital facilities are available to help you if your child needs to be admitted.

Childrens Out-patients / Clinics: The majority of your child's care will be in Leeds but some ongoing care will be given locally. Day Clinics are utilised for some chemotherapy administration, planned reviews, blood tests and follow up care post treatment. The clinics are run by a Nurse trained in chemotherapy administration and the Lead or Deputy Clinician. During clinic times there is a waiting area used exclusively for oncology patients.

Car Parking

Parking in the Barrier car park areas is free for children with a cancer diagnosis. Please ask the Nurse caring for your child for an 'Exemption Slip. These car parks are located at Rainbow Centre and both the Maternity and Main entrances. Were unable to offer, free parking in the pay and display areas, such as at A&E entrance.

Chemotherapy

The drug treatment (chemotherapy) for children who have cancer involves having multiple cycles of treatment over a period of time varying from a few months to several years. Most of your child's chemotherapy will be given in the Oncology centre in Leeds however it may be possible to have some bolus chemotherapy given in Calderdale. The CCN team can support you if your child is receiving certain chemotherapy at home.

Supportive Care

All Oncology children have direct access to the ward in Calderdale and therefore bypass Accident & Emergency if they need to be admitted or reviewed. If you have any concerns whilst you are at home you should contact the Oncology ward in Leeds who will give you appropriate advice, alternatively you can contact the CCN team.

The most commonly encountered problems during treatment which will require your child to attend the hospital or be admitted are usually due to the effects of chemotherapy. These might be anaemia, low platelet counts, febrile neutropenia or nausea and vomiting. Blood and platelet transfusions can be given on ward 3 at Calderdale. When children are admitted with an infection tests will be carried out and they will receive antibiotics following the same protocols and guidelines as the centre in Leeds until the fever resolves. In some cases it will be necessary to transfer your child to the Oncology Centre in Leeds. The CCN team are able to support you with other aspects of your child's care such as naso-gastric tube feeds, G-CSF injections, line flushes and blood tests that can be done at home.

When you are first discharged home from the Oncology unit in Leeds the CCN team will arrange to do a joint visit with your key worker from the PTC in Leeds. A representative from the CCN team and the children's ward attends the monthly meetings held in the hospital so that all information is shared and communicated.
Contact Numbers

Dr. G. Sharpe (secretary)                                      01422   224146
CCN Team Huddersfield                                       01484   342872
Ward 3 Calderdale                                                01422   223477
Childrens Oncology at Leeds
Ward L31                                                      0113 3927431
Ward L32                                                      0113 3927432
Ward L33                                                      0113 3927433
Day Care Unit                                                        0113 3927179
McMillan Team                                                       0113 3922323

Key worker CCN

Key worker Leeds

Information about your child

As part of your care, when you come to the hospital, information about you is shared between members of the health care team, some of whom you may not meet. It may be used to help train any staff involved in your care. Information we collect may also be used after you have been treated to help us to maintain and improve the quality of our care, to plan services, or to research into new developments.

All information is treated as strictly confidential, and is not given to anyone who does not need it. If you have any concerns please ask your doctor or the person caring for you.

If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Clinical Manager
Children’s Community Team
Ward 18
Huddersfield Royal Infirmary
Tel: 01484 342872

If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

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