




The Clatterbridge  
Cancer Centre  
NHS Foundation Trust



# Lymphoma /Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) Team Information

Haemato-Oncology

**A guide for patients and carers**

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**You have been referred to The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre's Lymphoma/Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia (CLL) specialist team. We provide a full service for diagnosis and management of lymphoid cancers in Liverpool and beyond.**

It is important to note that a referral to our team does not always mean you have a diagnosis of cancer. You may also be referred because of having symptoms that need specialist review and tests. This will be explained to you in clinic.

**Some of the services we provide include:**

- A rapid diagnostic clinic for diagnosis of lymphoid malignancy
- Clinics in Clatterbridge Cancer Centre Liverpool (CCCL)
- Clinics in Clatterbridge Cancer Centre Aintree (CCCA)
- Outpatient chemotherapy in CCCL
- Outpatient chemotherapy in the Marina Dalglish Unit (Aintree)
- Inpatients on Ward 4 and 5 CCCL
- Blood cancer services to all acute hospitals in Liverpool
- Radiotherapy for lymphoma
- Regional support to haematology teams in Merseyside, Cheshire and North Wales

## **Our clinical team is made up of the following members:**

- Consultants
- Specialist Registrar
- Advanced Nurse Practitioner
- Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Research Nurses
- Pharmacist
- Consultant Clinical Scientist
- Pathway Co-ordinator
- Cancer support worker

These are the people you are most likely to meet when you come for your clinic appointment, or on the inpatient ward.



## Consultants

These are experts in diagnosing and treating Lymphoma/CLL. They will discuss your diagnosis and possible treatment options, if required, at different stages of the disease. Many patients may be eligible for treatment as part of a research study or clinical trial, and your consultant will advise you if this is a potential and appropriate option for you. Please also let us know if you are interested in clinical trials. Our consultants are:

- Dr Jeffery Smith, Consultant Haematologist and service lead
- Dr Arvind Arumainathan, Consultant Haematologist
- Prof Nagesh Kalakonda, Consultant Haematologist
- Prof Andrew Pettitt, Consultant Haematologist
- Dr Vikram Singh, Consultant Haematologist
- Dr Matthew Wells, Consultant Haematologist
- Dr Stella Williams, Consultant Haematologist
- Dr Rachel Brooker, Consultant Clinical Oncologist (specialist in radiotherapy)
- Dr Peter Robson, Consultant Clinical Oncologist (specialist in radiotherapy)
- Dr Richard Azurdia, Consultant Dermatologist (specialist in skin lymphoma)

## Specialist Registrar

This is a senior doctor who has chosen to become a consultant haematologist, and is working towards this. There is no named registrar in our team, as they rotate through different teams as part of their training.

## Consultant Clinical Scientist

Our consultant clinical scientist, Tracey Smith-Straney, has many years' experience as a laboratory scientist specialising in blood cancer diagnosis. She is also fully qualified to manage blood cancer in clinical settings.

## Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)

This is a senior nurse specialising in caring for people with Lymphoma/CLL. They are there to help and support you as well as coordinate your care in hospital and at home. It can be an overwhelming experience receiving a diagnosis and trying to understand the impact it can have on you and your family. Your CNS can help you to understand your cancer diagnosis and treatment options and support you through your cancer experience.

Specialist nurses stay with you throughout your treatment journey, from your first clinic appointment to aftercare. They're there to help with problems and questions you or your family may have.



The nurses play a major role in supporting you with this. Our clinical nurse specialists are:

- Lauren Burke
- Amy Cookson
- Angela Foster
- Hayley Glover
- Jessica Jones

## Advanced Nurse Practitioner/ANP

This is a senior specialist nurse. The ANP in Lymphoma/CLL is Chris Ward.

## Research Nurse

If you are having your treatment as part of a clinical trial, one of our research nurses will act as your specialist nurse. They will coordinate your treatment and act as your support and guide throughout.

Our research nurses are:

- Jane Tinsley (Lead Research Nurse)
- Irwin Balquin
- Darren Keats
- Aimee Weatherall

## Senior Pharmacist

The senior pharmacist ensures that any treatment/chemotherapy you receive is prescribed and administered correctly. She will often review any medications you are already taking to make sure no interactions take place.

Any queries relating to medicines/chemotherapy are dealt with by the pharmacist. She or one of her colleagues may conduct a telephone appointment when you are on active treatment. This is to ensure that you are ready for your next treatment dose and are tolerating the treatment well. Our senior pharmacist is Aileen McCaughey.

## Pathway Co-ordinator

Our pathway co-ordinator helps speed up and co-ordinate tests for new patients referred with suspected blood cancers (i.e. patients not known to have a previous diagnosis of blood cancer).

He also acts as a point of contact if you are undergoing such tests. Our pathway co-ordinator is Haydn Pidcock.





## Secretaries

The lymphoma team secretaries help manage and co-ordinate clinics, chase investigation results, and co-ordinate appointments.

Our secretaries are:

- Amanda Peters (CCCL) – 0151 318 8581
- Carla Woolley (CCCL) – 0151 318 8494
- Angela Peacock (CCCA) - 0151 529 4672

## Teenage and Young Adult service

For patients aged 18-24 there is a Teenage and Young Adult (TYA) team which includes a specialist nurse, Youth support co-ordinator, and a Clinical Psychologist. There is also a TYA unit, which is an area dedicated to treating young people with cancer. Our TYA Specialist nurse is Clare Warburton.

## Other members of the wider team include:

### **Histopathologist**

These are doctors who are experts at identifying cancer cells and carrying out special tests to help our team determine the best treatment option for you.

### **Radiologist**

These are doctors specially trained to carry out diagnostic tests and interpret X-rays and scans, i.e. CT, PET/CT, MRI, and ultrasound.

### **Patient Counsellor**

Linda Boyne is the counsellor for patients with blood cancer. She supports patients and their families and works Mondays and Tuesdays. She can meet people face to face or speak over the telephone. Linda also runs the patient support group which takes place monthly. If you feel you'd like to join the group or speak to Linda privately, please ask one of the team.

### **Clinical Psychologists**

Sometimes patients require more advanced psychological support. Often, one of the team will suggest this to you if they feel it is in your best interests. You may then be referred to the psychology specialist team who will see you separately.

### **Cancer Support Worker (CSW)**

The CSW works alongside the clinical nurse specialists to provide support and information to patients and families. Our CSW is Caron Plimley.



## Clinics

Clinic appointments are conducted in person, or by telephone.

Our clinics are held in CCCL, CCCA, and in Aintree University Hospital. If possible, we will offer you a clinic appointment to the site closest to your home. This may not always be possible, for example, because of being enrolled in some clinical trials.

When attending clinic for the first time we may need to send you for further investigations such as blood tests, scans and biopsies. Blood tests are usually taken at the hospital you are attending and scans and biopsies are requested and appointed at a later date. If you are attending the clinic regularly then we will sometimes arrange blood tests to be taken alongside your clinic appointment. This can give us a general overview of your health.

It is important to note that you may be seen by any member of the team, either for a face-to-face appointment, or a telephone appointment.

We are aware that clinics appointment can be stressful. We do all we can to try to ensure people have sufficient time to discuss their care. Unfortunately, this can mean that you are not seen at your exact appointment time when you attend.

## Inpatient admissions

Sometimes, you will need treatment that involves staying in the hospital. This will take place on Ward 4 or Ward 5 in CCCL.

Visiting arrangements on the wards can sometimes change. Please speak to the ward team for further information.

The consultants take turns looking after the inpatient ward, so you are likely to meet more than one consultant during an inpatient stay.

If you or your family members have questions relating to your care or treatment, please speak to the team. We can also arrange a meeting with one of our consultants. Please speak to the ward team or your specialist nurse to arrange this.

You or your family can also ring our specialist nurses with any general queries related to your treatment.

## Your treatment

The team meets weekly in a multi-disciplinary team meeting (MDT), in order to discuss treatment plans. All decisions about your care are ultimately made by you with advice from us. If you feel you need further advice or opportunities to discuss anything mentioned in clinic, please contact your specialist nurse.

We strive to provide the latest treatments for patients through clinical trials. Please also let us know if you are interested in clinical trials.



The details of your treatment plan and any expected side-effects will be explained to you at a separate visit where you will be able to discuss and ask any questions that you might have. This is usually done by a clinical nurse specialist or research nurse.

## Treatment Settings

Some of our treatments are tablets or injections that are prescribed in the clinic and which you can take at home. Some treatments involve you receiving drips which are given on Ward 1 CCCL, or the Marina DalGLISH Unit.

If you are aged 16-24, you will be offered the option of having your treatment on the Teenage/Young Adult (TYA) unit on Level 5 CCCL.

If you need inpatient treatment, this will take place on Ward 4 or Ward 5 in CCCL.

## Further information

We are always looking to improve our service and make it more efficient. If you have any suggestions that might help with this, we would very much like to hear them. Similarly, if there are aspects of your care that you believe should be done better, please speak to one of the team and we will do our best to resolve these.

If you have any further questions please contact the Specialist Nurse team on **07796 391334**.





## How we produce our information

All of our leaflets are produced by staff at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre and this information is not sponsored or influenced in any way. Every effort is made to ensure that the information included in this leaflet is accurate and complete and we hope that it will add to any professional advice you have had. All our leaflets are evidence based where appropriate and they are regularly reviewed and updated. If you are concerned about your health in any way, you should consult your healthcare team.

We rely on a number of sources to gather evidence for our information. All of our information is in line with accepted national or international guidelines where possible. Where no guidelines exist, we rely on other reliable sources such as systematic reviews, published clinical trials data or a consensus review of experts. We also use medical textbooks, journals and government publications.

References for this leaflet can be obtained by telephoning 0151 556 5570.

If you need this leaflet in large print, Braille, audio or different language, please call 0151 556 5570.

**If you have a comment, concern, compliment or complaint, please call 0151 556 5203.**

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