



# **Neuro-Oncology**

Multi Disciplinary Team

Patient Information

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## Introduction

This booklet is for people who have been diagnosed with brain or spinal tumours.

It tells you about your regional neuro-oncology service, the multidisciplinary team and other health professionals who may be involved in your care.

## Multidisciplinary Team Meeting

There is a multidisciplinary team for each type of tumour. Your regional neuro-oncology multidisciplinary team (MDT) is made up of health professionals with expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of brain and spinal tumours.

Every week appointed members of the neuro-oncology MDT meet at a multidisciplinary meeting (MDM) at the Royal Victoria Hospital to discuss the results of your tests. These results help the team to decide on the best treatment for you.

The team's decision will be discussed with you at your next appointment and you will be involved in the final decision about your treatment. Your GP will also be informed of this treatment plan.

## Members of the Multidisciplinary Team

Your regional neuro-oncology MDT is made up of the core members listed below. You may not meet all of them but they will be involved in your care.

## Multidisciplinary Team Co-ordinator

A MDT co-ordinator organises the team meetings and discussions and makes sure your records are available to the team.

## Neuro Radiologist

A neuro radiologist is a doctor who specialises in the use of x-rays and scans to diagnose tumours of the brain and spine.

## Neuro Surgeon

A neuro surgeon is a specialist doctor who will discuss the surgical choices you have for your tumour.

## Neuro Oncologist

A neuro-oncologist is a specialist doctor who treats tumours with radiotherapy and/or chemotherapy.

## Neuro Pathologist

A neuro pathologist is a specialist doctor who examines brain and spinal tissue to identify the type of tumour you have.

## Neuro Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist

A neuro oncology clinical nurse specialist (CNS) is a nurse who specialises in the care of people with brain and spinal tumours. Your CNS can offer specialist advice, information and support to you and your family from diagnosis onwards and refer you to other services if you need them.

## Specialist Palliative Care Team

The specialist palliative care team provides specialist advice on symptoms you may have and offers support to you and your family from diagnosis onwards. The team works closely with everyone involved in your care to meet your needs and the needs of your family. Palliative care is available to everyone affected by tumours and is especially important if your tumour cannot be cured.

## Key Worker

You will be allocated a key worker who helps to co-ordinate your care and who can discuss your diagnosis and treatment plan with you. Your key worker will be one of the health professionals listed above and may change throughout your treatment. If so, you will be informed of the name and contact details of your new key worker.

Please do not hesitate to contact your key worker if you would like to discuss any aspect of your care.

## Other health professionals may join the core neuro-oncology MDT from time to time.

These include:

### Social Worker

A social worker provides social care and support to help you, your family and carers to cope.

### Physiotherapist

A physiotherapist advises on exercises and techniques to help manage your symptoms and increase your independence and quality of life.

### Occupational Therapist

An occupational therapist helps you to manage daily activities to increase your independence and quality of life.

### Speech and Language Therapist

A speech and language therapist can assess, diagnose and treat you if you are having problems with communication and/or swallowing.

### Dietician

A dietician helps you with any concerns you have about your diet and to manage any dietary problems you are having.

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**Any member of your MDT can refer you to the following health and social care professionals if you need their support:**

### **Research Nurse**

A research nurse is a specialist nurse who is involved with you are taking part in a clinical trial. If you are having radiotherapy you may see a research radiographer who can offer you information and support.

### **Clinical Psychologist**

A clinical psychologist offers psychological and emotional support to you and your family.

### **Chaplain**

A chaplain helps you to meet your religious, spiritual and pastoral needs whether you have a faith or not. A chaplain can contact other religious or cultural groups in the community to give you further support if you need it.

### **Cancer Support and Information Staff**

Cancer information staff can offer information and support to you and those who care for you. Macmillan Support and Information Centres within Belfast Health & Social Care Trust are based at Belfast City Hospital and the Royal Victoria Hospitals.

**Not everyone we mention in this booklet will be involved in your care.**

### **Treatment sites**

If you need:

- Surgery - this will be carried out by the neuro surgical team at Royal Victoria Hospital
- Radiotherapy - this will be carried out at the Northern Ireland Cancer Centre at Belfast City Hospital
- Chemotherapy - this will be carried out at the Bridgewater Suite at Belfast City Hospital under the direction and supervision of your neuro-oncologist.



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This information can be made available on request in alternative formats and in other languages to meet the needs of those who are not fluent in English.

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