

Frequently Asked Questions



Q. Where will I be having my treatment?

SMDCC has a shared treatment area, so you will be in a room with other patients having chemotherapy or other intravenous therapies. The shared areas are livelier and generally help the time pass while your treatment is underway. You are very welcome to bring a family member, friend or carer with you to keep you company. We ask that only one person accompanies you as space is limited. You may also want to bring a book, music (with earphones), a laptop or some craftwork to keep you occupied.

Q. Can I have breakfast before I come?

Absolutely, eat your breakfast as you would normally, unless your doctor has advised you otherwise.

Q. What should I wear?

Wear Comfortable clothes, as you will receive your treatment in the chemotherapy chairs (private treatment rooms can be arranged prior to arrival).

Q. Can I drive after my treatment?

Please arrange for someone to drive you to and from your first treatment appointment day. Depending on the medications in your treatment, you may be able to drive for subsequent visits, please discuss this with nursing staff.

Q. Who will administer and supervise my treatment?

Specially trained chemotherapy nurses will administer the treatment, working closely with your Oncologist. All patients are assessed prior to each cycle of chemotherapy, by both the Oncologist and the chemotherapy nurses. Please let your Oncologist and nurses know which side affects you have experienced (if any).

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Q. Who can I contact in an Emergency?

Please follow the instructions provided in your '*Chemotherapy Treatment Record*' (inside the front cover).

Q. What are the possible side-effects for my treatment?

Chemotherapy can produce side-effects in some but not all people. Different chemotherapy drugs cause different side-effects. Most are often temporary and can be treated or managed.

Possible side-effects include:

- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhoea or constipation (often due to anti-nausea medication)
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Mouth sores or ulcers
- Increased risk of infection
- Increased risk of bruising
- Hair loss
- Muscle weakness
- Skin sensitivity to light (specific drugs only)
- Dry or tired eyes
- Loss of appetite

If you have concerns or questions, please contact your doctor.