

Patient information

Cancer of unknown primary (CUP) and malignancy of unknown origin (MUO)

This leaflet contains some general information about your condition and contact details of the professionals involved in your care.

From the tests you have had carried out, we have identified that you have cancer but the original place (or primary) where the cancer started cannot be found. There can be many reasons why the primary cannot be found:

- It may be too small to be seen on the scan or hidden beside a large secondary cancer.
- It may have disappeared, even though it has spread to other parts of the body. This is usually as a result of the primary cancer losing its blood supply.

Sometimes there are further investigations that are required to be carried out in order to try and investigate where the cancer has originated from. This is initially referred to as a malignancy of unknown origin (MUO).

Sometimes, on the basis of the scan and biopsy results, we are still unable to identify the primary site of the cancer. This is known as cancer of unknown primary (CUP). In these cases the process can take a little longer as more special tests may need to be carried out to try and identify where the cancer came from. Overall MUO/CUP is quite common, accounting for 4% of all cancer cases.

Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)

Your case will be discussed at a weekly meeting attended by a team of specialists called the multidisciplinary team (MDT). It consists of a group of professionals involved in your care. The people who are part of the MDT include:

- An oncologist who is a doctor that specialises in cancer.

- A radiologist, who is a doctor who reviews your scans and x-rays.
- A pathologist who interprets biopsies you may have had done.
- A palliative care specialist, who is involved in symptom control.
- A cancer nurse specialist, who will be your key worker.
- An administrator, who makes sure all your information is available for the team to review).

Your key worker will update you regarding your care following these meetings. This could be over the phone or you will be asked to attend a clinic to discuss your treatment.

Treatment for CUP

There are various treatments for CUP which can include chemotherapy, radiotherapy, hormone based medicines symptom control. The treatment you have will depend on the presentation of your cancer, the results of various tests you have had and your general health.

Key worker/clinical nurse specialist

You will be allocated a key worker who will coordinate your care and support you through this difficult time.

Your key worker is Christine Watkins who can be contacted Monday to Friday on **01284 713799** or contact the hospital switchboard **01284 713000** and ask for bleep **579**.

Tracy Fell is available on the above numbers in Christine's absence.

Financial problems

Finances can be a major problem because treatments for cancer can be a lengthy process. If you need financial assistance, the Macmillan

Information Centre will be able to offer information and refer you to a Macmillan Benefits Advisor. There are also grants available for cancer patients from different organisations, please ask your specialist nurse or the Macmillan Information Manager for details.

To contact the Suffolk Macmillan Benefits Advisors please call: 01473 264848

Email: macmillanbenefitsadviceservice@suffolk.gov.uk

Further financial advice can be obtained by calling the **Macmillan Cancer Support Helpline on 0808 808 0000**, or www.macmillan.org.uk

You may also qualify for a Macmillan Patient Grant to help cover the cost of travel (and other items). Please contact the Macmillan Information Centre for more information and Macmillan Grant form on

01284 713023

or email: nicola.mckee@wsh.nhs.uk

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (the new name for DisabledGo) <https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>



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