

## PATIENT INFORMATION

# Immunotherapy Assessment Clinic

As you are aware you are currently receiving Immunotherapy that has been prescribed by your Consultant for your cancer.

Once your consultant is happy with how you are coping with your Immunotherapy treatment, they will refer you to the Immunotherapy Assessment clinic.

You will remain under your named consultant but will be reviewed by an experienced nurse in the Assessment clinic prior to each treatment and more regularly if you are experiencing side effects.

Immunotherapy is very different to chemotherapy and the side effects can be very broad. Immunotherapy works by making the cancer cells visible to your own immune system and then your own immune system will attack the cancer.

This means the immune system can sometimes become too active and start causing inflammation in any area of the body and this can cause side effects.

Common side effects are generally mild and include feeling tired (fatigue), itching, and skin rash, loss of appetite, cough, nausea, joint pains and diarrhoea.

Side effects can be managed well if we are informed as soon as you experience something new even if it is a mild side effect. The reason for informing us early is that the sooner we can treat the side effects the quicker we can calm the inflammation down and this is generally done by starting steroids.

You will stay on your Immunotherapy for as long as it is working, and you are not experiencing side effects or you have completed your treatment.

You will continue to have scans at regular intervals to see how you are responding to the Immunotherapy treatment. Your Consultant will discuss your scan results with you and confirm the ongoing plan.

Once your Immunotherapy treatment is completed you will return to your Consultant for ongoing follow up.

If you have questions in relation to your hospital appointments, then please contact the **Oncology department** on (01803 655380) or your **Consultants secretary** to discuss. You can also contact the **Immunotherapy Team secretary** on (01803-654340).



Do not hesitate to contact your **Specialist Nurses / Keyworker** for ongoing support and advice re any concerns you may have that are not treatment related.

However, if you are on treatment and unwell, then you should not leave messages on the voicemail of your specialist nurse:

You should contact:

**Telephone Triage Line – (24 hrs)** where you can speak to a nurse on (01803 655219).

The nurses will advise you what you need to do depending on your problem.

 TorbayAndSouthDevonFT  
 @TorbaySDevonNHS  
[www.torbayandsouthdevon.nhs.uk/](http://www.torbayandsouthdevon.nhs.uk/)

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For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.