Oncology and haematology clinical trials
Information for patients at Guy’s Hospital
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Welcome
This booklet gives you information that you might need on your journey throughout your treatment as a patient taking part in an oncology (cancer) or haematology clinical trial.

It includes maps, information about our team, and the different departments you may need to visit whilst taking part in a trial.

If you need any other information, please ask your research team – we are here to help.

Meet the team

Research team
Our role is to manage and coordinate oncology and haematology clinical trials for Guy’s and St Thomas’ patients. Our team includes research nurses (RNs), clinical trial practitioners and coordinators (CTPs / CTCs), and a management team.

- **Research nurses** make sure clinical research studies run smoothly and that participants are kept safe and fully informed. They work in three areas: clinical, administration and education.

- **Clinical trials coordinator/practitioners** usually have a background in life science or research. They divide their role between administration and clinical duties.

Contacts

| Trial name: |  |
| Consultant: |  |
| Research nurse: |  |
| Telephone: |  |
| CTC/CTP: |  |
| Telephone: |  |
| Email: |  |

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)
To make comments or raise concerns about the Trust’s services, please contact PALS.

PALS is based on the ground floor of Tower Wing, near the main reception.

**t:** 020 7188 8803  
**e:** pals@gstt.nhs.uk

Open: Monday-Friday, 10am-12noon and 2pm-4pm
Other services

Dimbleby Cancer Care
The Dimbleby Cancer Care Centre at Guy’s provides support and information for patients and their carers from south east London and west Kent.

Services include psychological support, complementary therapies such as aromatherapy and reflexology and information about support available to you, such as benefits advice and support groups. For more information see www.dimblebycancercare.org.

District nurses
These nurses provide care in your own home, such as IV line care, wound dressings, and medicine administration.

Acute Oncology Service (AOS)
If you become unwell, develop symptoms or experience any problems after having chemotherapy or anticancer treatment, you can call AOS on 020 7188 3754.

The service operates between 8.30am and 6.30pm Monday–Friday.

If you feel unwell outside of these hours, please call the hospital switchboard on 020 7188 7188 and ask for the operator. When you are talking to the operator, please ask them to contact the oncology registrar on-call.

Do not hesitate to seek medical advice if you feel unwell or have any concerns relating to your health.

Multidisciplinary team (MDT)
A number of other healthcare professionals may also be involved in your care during your clinical trial. They are known as the multidisciplinary team (MDT).

- **Clinical nurse specialists** (CNS) are your key workers. They help you access services from different healthcare professionals and provide an overview of your care ‘pathway’. They concentrate on three areas: patients (and their families), nursing management and administration.

- **Physiotherapists** help restore movement and normal body functions if you are ill, injured or disabled, depending on your needs and situation.

- **Dietitians** give practical advice on your diet and nutrition.

- **Speech and language therapists** assist with speech, language and communication problems, and also work with people with eating and swallowing difficulties.

- **Occupational therapists** assess and treat physical and psychiatric conditions.

- **Palliative care nurses** support people with progressive conditions to manage their symptoms, and can also provide counselling for patients and their carers.
Where will my appointment be?

As well as your regular clinic visits, the research team may also ask you to attend additional clinics and undertake extra procedures, such as scans or blood tests.

Some patients will be seen at St Thomas’ Hospital. Please confirm with your research team where your appointment is.

Oncology patients

Most oncology patients will be seen in the oncology outpatients department. Your research team will let you know where you will be seen when you start your trial.

At Guy’s Hospital, oncology outpatients is on the ground floor of the Tabard Annexe (pink zone).

Directions: as you enter the hospital through the main entrance, walk to the right, past the reception desk. The entrance to Tabard Annexe is at the back of the reception lobby, also signposted Urgent Care Centre. Walk through the doors and turn right. Follow the corridor round until it brings you to the oncology outpatients department.

When you arrive please let the receptionist know and show your appointment card/letter. The receptionist is there to welcome you and answer any questions you may have.

If your trial visit is in other clinics at Guy’s Hospital, your research team will give you directions as required.

Expenses

Some trials may provide reimbursement of travel costs and other expenses. The research nurse or clinical trial coordinator/practitioner will be able to tell you if you are able to make a claim.

If your trial allows you to claim your expenses, you will only be reimbursed for visits occurring after signing the consent form, and can only make claims for expenses related to your trial hospital visits.

In order to be reimbursed, you will need to keep hold of travel tickets and all relevant receipts.

Toms @ Guy’s Cafe
Atrium 3, Bermondsey Wing
Monday-Friday: 8.30am-3pm
Closed Saturday/Sunday
Hospital facilities
Facilities at St Thomas’ Hospital include shops, restaurants, entertainment and spiritual care.

Wi-Fi / Internet
Free access is available for patients and visitors. Connect using the WiFiSPARK network. All new users should register before connecting for the first time.

Cinema
Guy’s and St Thomas’ offers a MediCinema at both hospitals – a permanent, state-of-the-art cinema for patients, their family and carers to enjoy. The facilities screen the latest box-office releases, and they’re free. If you’re an outpatient, you'll need to provide proof that you are being treated at Guy’s or St Thomas’ such as an appointment or referral letter.

For more information call 020 7188 3697 or email gsttmedicinema@medicinema.org.uk.

Refreshments
AMT coffee naturally
Guy’s main entrance and at the main reception, Tower Wing.
Monday-Friday: 6.30pm-7pm
Saturday-Sunday: 8am-3pm

Sakar Newsagents and mini market
Main corridor, ground floor
Monday-Friday: 7.30am-3.30pm,
Saturday: 7am-6pm,
Sunday: 8am-3pm
Haematology patients
If you are a haematology patient you will be seen in either haematology one or haematology two outpatient departments.

The haematology departments are based at Guy’s Hospital.

Haematology one is on the ground floor of Southwark Wing (blue zone).

Haematology two and the Haematology Day Unit are on the fourth floor, Southwark wing.

Directions: as you enter the hospital through the main entrance, walk to the left and follow the signs for Southwark Wing (blue zone). Walk along the corridor, past the hospital shop and Southwark Wing is to the left. The lifts here will take you up to the fourth floor if you’re going to haematology two or the day unit.

When you arrive in the department, please let the receptionist know that you have arrived for your appointment and you are there to see the research team. The receptionist is there to welcome you and answer any questions you may have.

Collecting your trial medicine from the pharmacy
Some trial drugs will be given to you directly by your research team as they are only available to patients on that trial.

Other medicines will need to be collected at a pharmacy. Your research team will tell you where to collect your trial medicines.

The Sainsbury’s outpatient pharmacy at Guy’s is close to the hospital’s main entrance, on Great Maze Pond.

Open: Monday to Friday, 8am-11pm, Saturday, 9am-10pm, Sunday 9am-9pm
Tel: 020 7188 7611
**ECGs**

An ECG (electrocardiogram) records the rhythm and electrical activity of the heart.

If you need an ECG, this may be done either in your regular clinic by a member of your research team, or in the cardiac (heart) outpatients department.

The cardiac outpatients department at Guy’s Hospital is on the first floor, Southwark Wing (blue zone).
Tests and treatments and where to find them

Your treatment may come in the form of tablets, intravenous (in the vein) therapy or a combination of both. It may also include radiotherapy. Some treatments may require you to be admitted to hospital for the duration of treatment; however most can be given to you as an outpatient.

Blood tests

Blood tests help us make sure you are well enough to have treatment and to monitor any potential side effects. Blood may be taken at regular intervals.

Depending on the type of test required, results can take minutes or sometimes longer.

Your blood test will be taken by someone specially trained to take blood, known as a phlebotomist. If you have a permanent fitted device in your arm or chest for blood/treatment, please let the receptionist know so that they can arrange for a nurse to take your blood.

Some trials may require additional tests, such as urine samples, scans or biopsies (samples of tissue). More information about these will be given to you by your research team when you start the trial.
CT scans
A computerised tomography (CT) scan uses x-rays and a computer to create detailed images of the inside of your body. The images produced by a CT scan are more detailed than standard x-rays.

During a CT scan, you will usually lie on your back on a flat bed. The CT scanner consists of an x-ray tube that rotates around your body. You will usually be moved continuously through this rotating beam. The scan is painless and normally takes between 5 and 10 minutes depending on the part of your body being scanned.

Radiotherapy
If radiotherapy is required as part of your clinical trial, you will receive all the information you need when you are first referred for the treatment.

Radiotherapy can be given at both the Guy’s and St Thomas’ hospital sites.

The MRI scanner at Guy’s Hospital is on the third floor, Tower Wing (purple zone).
**Having a scan**

Scans take place at both Guy’s and St Thomas’ hospitals, so please remember to check your appointment letter which will tell you where to go.

**MRI scans**

A magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan is a painless procedure that usually lasts between 15 and 90 minutes, depending on the size of the area being scanned and the number of images.

An MRI scanner is a short cylinder that is open at both ends. You will lie on a motorised bed that is moved inside the scanner. The scanner will make very loud tapping noises at certain times during the procedure; however, headphones with a choice of music are provided.

The MRI scanner at Guy’s Hospital is on the second floor, Tower Wing (purple zone). Other imaging, such as x-rays and ultrasounds are also carried out here.
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Contacts
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Consultant: ____________________________
Research nurse: ________________________
Telephone: _____________________________
CTC/CTP: ______________________________
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