**Introduction**

This booklet is for people who have been diagnosed with gynaecological cancers which include cancer of the cervix, ovary, vulva, vagina and womb. It tells you about the regional gynae oncology service, the multidisciplinary team and other health professionals who may be involved in your care.

**Multidisciplinary Team Meeting**

There is a multidisciplinary team (MDT) for gynaecological cancers. This team is made up of health professionals with expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of these types of cancers. Every week appointed members of the MDT meet at a multidisciplinary meeting (MDM) in Belfast City Hospital. The team discusses the results of your tests. These results help the team decide on the best treatment plan 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 plan. Your GP will also be informed of this treatment plan.

**Members of the Multidisciplinary Team**

The regional gynae oncology MDT is made up of the following core members. 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 ensures your records are available to the team.
Gynae Oncology Surgeon
A gynae oncology surgeon is a doctor who specialises in assessing and treating gynaecological cancers. Your surgeon will discuss the surgical choices for the type of cancer you have and carry out any necessary operations to remove the cancer.

Histopathologist
A histopathologist is a specialist doctor who examines body tissue and cell samples to identify the type of cancer you have.

Radiologist
A radiologist is a doctor who specialises in the use of x-rays and scans to diagnose the type of cancer you have.

Oncologist
An oncologist is a specialist doctor who treats cancer with a number of treatments including:
• radiotherapy (high energy rays to destroy cancer cells)
• chemotherapy (treatment with drugs to disrupt the way cancer cells grow)
• hormonal therapy (alters the production or activity of hormones in the body)
• brachytherapy (a type of internal radiotherapy)

Gynae Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist
A gynae oncology clinical nurse specialist (CNS) is a nurse who specialises in the care of people with gynaecological cancers. 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.
Clinical Specialist Radiographer
A clinical specialist radiographer co-ordinates your care if you are having radiotherapy for your cancer. Your clinical specialist radiographer offers information and support to you and your family on all aspects of radiotherapy throughout and after treatment.

Specialist Brachytherapy Radiographer
A brachytherapy radiographer co-ordinates your care if you are having brachytherapy for your cancer. Your brachytherapy radiographer offers information to you on all aspects of brachytherapy throughout and after treatment.

Hospital Specialist Palliative Care Team
The hospital specialist palliative care team provides expert advice on managing complex symptoms 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 aims to improve your quality of life through assessing and managing physical symptoms as well as any emotional, spiritual and social issues you may have. Supportive and palliative care is available to everyone affected by cancer and is especially important if your cancer cannot be cured.

Supportive and palliative care can also be provided in your own home and other community care settings by a range of healthcare professionals including your GP and district nurse.
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. There are many specialists who provide care and support during and after your cancer diagnosis. Not everyone we mention in this booklet will be involved in your care but any member of your MDT can refer you to the following specialists if you need their support:

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 you to manage your symptoms to maintain your independence and improve your quality of life.

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

Dietician
A dietician specialises in food and nutrition. Your dietician can help plan a diet to suit your individual nutritional needs and help you manage any dietary problems you are having.
Clinical Psychologist
A clinical psychologist offers psychological and emotional support to you and your family.

Therapy Radiographer
A therapy radiographer specialises in the planning and delivery of radiotherapy treatment from initial referral to follow-up care after treatment ends. You will see the therapy radiographer each time you are having radiotherapy treatment.

Research Radiographer
A research radiographer is a specialist radiographer who is involved with patients who take part in clinical trials involving radiotherapy.

Research Nurse
A research nurse is a specialist nurse who is involved in the care of patients who take part in clinical trials.

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 offer information and support to you and those who care for you. Macmillan Information Centres at Belfast City Hospital and the Royal Victoria Hospital offer a relaxing environment. You may talk in confidence to specially trained staff and volunteers who can guide you through a range of free information. The centres offer support services and can put you in touch with other sources of help and support, for example, benefits advice.

Information & Support Radiographer
A radiographer who can discuss any concerns you may have if you are having radiotherapy. The information and support radiographer can support you and your family before, during and after your treatment and refer you to other health professionals or services if you need them.

Where treatment is carried out
If you need:
• Surgery - this will be carried at Belfast City Hospital
• Chemotherapy - this will be carried out at the Bridgewater Suite or the Northern Ireland Cancer Centre at Belfast City Hospital
• Radiotherapy - this will be carried out at the Northern Ireland Cancer Centre at Belfast City Hospital
• Brachytherapy - this will be carried out at the Northern Ireland Cancer Centre at Belfast City Hospital.
Useful Contacts

The names and telephone numbers of the professionals involved in your care are listed below. These may change as you progress through your treatment. You may wish to add additional names to this list.

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Information and Support

If you need further information and support you may use the following links:

**Gynae Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist**
Tel: 028 9504 8345

**Gynae Oncology Support Worker**
Tel: 028 9504 3693

**Belfast Trust Cancer Services Website**
http://belfasttrust-cancerservices.hscni.net/

**Macmillan Support & Information Centre, Belfast City Hospital**
Tel: 028 9063 8980
Email: cancerinfo@belfasttrust.hscni.net

**Macmillan Information Service, Royal Victoria Hospital**
Tel: 028 9063 0022
Email: cancerinfo.royal@belfasttrust.hscni.net

**Northern Ireland Cancer Network**
www.cancerni.net

**Cancer Survivorship website for Northern Ireland**
www.survivorship.cancerni.net

**Northern Ireland Cancer Trials Centre**
Tel: 028 9063 8468
www.qub.ac.uk/nictc
Email: nictc@belfasttrust.hscni.net

**Macmillan Cancer Support**
www.macmillan.org.uk
Macmillan Support Line 0808 808 0000
Cancer Focus
Tel: 028 9066 3281
www.cancerfocusni.org
Email: hello@cancerfocusni.org
Helpline: 0800 783 3339

Action Cancer
Tel: 028 9080 3344
www.actioncancer.org
Email: info@actioncancer.org

Target Ovarian Cancer
Tel: 0207 923 5470
www.targetovariancancer.org.uk
Email: info@targetovarian.org.uk

Angels of Hope
Tel: 028 9024 1310
www.angelsofhope.org.uk
Email: info@angelsofhope.org.uk

Jo’s Cervical Cancer Trust
Tel: 0207 250 8311
www.jostrust.org.uk
Email: info@jostrust.org.uk
Helpline: 0808 802 8000

Cancer Research UK Patient Information
www.cancerhelp.org.uk
Tel: 0808 800 4040

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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