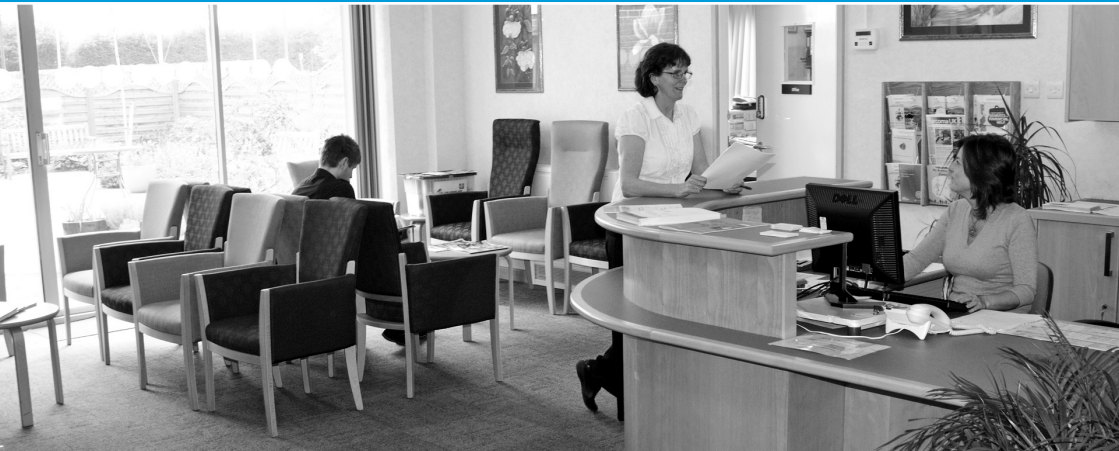


# Information for patients

## Attending clinic



# Oncology

## Welcome to the Musculo-skeletal tumour clinic

You have been referred to this clinic as we specialise in lumps and swellings of the bones and soft tissues, sometimes known as "Tumours".

### What is a tumour?

The term 'tumour' can be very worrisome but it actually describes 'an abnormal swelling or enlargement in any part of the body whatever the cause'

### Who will be responsible for my care?

When you attend the clinic for the first time you will meet one of the consultants who will be responsible for your care. You will also meet the specialist nurse and/or clinical therapist who are also part of the team and one will be allocated as your key worker.

### The team are:

Mr D Williams - Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon  
Mr P Cool - Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon  
Mr D Ford - Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon  
Miss G Cribb - Consultant orthopaedic Surgeon  
Mr M Leahy - Consultant Medical Oncologist  
Sister Caroline Pemberton - Specialist Nurse  
Elizabeth Nicholls - Macmillan Clinical Therapist

We try to ensure you see the same consultant at each visit, but due to work load or holidays this may not be possible. However they work closely together and whoever you see will know about your condition.

### What investigations will I have?

Before a diagnosis can be given there are usually a series of tests and investigations that need to be carried out. These may include special scans which are performed in the x-ray department such as CT, MRI and Bone Scans.

Any scans you need will be organised for you from the clinic. You will receive the appointment for your scan/s directly from the scanning department. Information leaflets are available for all of these investigations via the X-Ray Department.

After you have had your scans it may also be necessary to take a sample of tissue in order to help identify what it is. This is normally done in two ways;

### A. Soft Tissue Samples

This is a simple procedure that can be done in the out-patients department. It involves taking a sample with a needle after a local anaesthetic injection. Alternatively this may be done by the x-ray department using the Ultrasound Scanner.

### B. Bone Samples

A Bone biopsy is usually taken under a short general anesthetic. There are two ways of taking a bone sample:

**1. CT guided biopsy:** This is a procedure undertaken in the X-ray department, by the radiologist with the guidance of the CT scanner and usually under a short general anaesthetic. You will have to come into hospital on the afternoon before the procedure, staying the night on the ward. Then after the biopsy, depending on your recovery from the anaesthetic, you may feel well enough to go home that evening.

**2. Needle or Open Biopsy:** This procedure is undertaken in the operating theatre under a general anaesthetic. A small incision is made which may require a stitch. Again you will need to come into hospital the day before and may need to stay on the ward the night after the procedure as well. Stitches will need to be removed 7-10 days after the procedure either in our outpatient clinic or by your GP practice nurse.

### How will I receive my results?

After all the investigations have been completed and all the results are available, you will be given an appointment to come back to clinic to discuss them with the Consultant. Please be aware that we are usually unable to give results over the telephone.

### When will I receive my results?

It is unlikely that the result of a bone or soft tissue biopsy will be available before seven days. Bone samples are difficult to process and can take extra time. We appreciate this is a long time to wait and we do all we can to have your results as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or you are unclear about anything you have been told, please feel free to contact us at any time.

We strongly encourage you to do so as it is usually after you have left the clinic, that you will think of things you wish you had asked.

## If you require a special edition of this leaflet

This leaflet is available in large print. Arrangements can also be made on request for it to be explained in your preferred language. Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) email: [Pals@rjah.nhs.uk](mailto:Pals@rjah.nhs.uk)

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### Hospital Stop Smoking Service

For advice and information on quitting smoking, or for an informal chat, please contact the Hospital Stop Smoking Sister on:

**01691 404114**

### Further Information

Please contact the tumour unit with any questions or if you are concerned on **01691 404107**.

If there is no one to take your call please leave your name and number on the answer machine.

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