

THE MACMILLAN VIRTUAL MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM

for consequences of cancer treatment

This information sheet is for patients who have heard about the Macmillan virtual Multi-Disciplinary Team (vMDT) and would like to know how they can access the service.

What is the Macmillan vMDT?

It's an online tool allowing healthcare professionals to seek expert advice from a team of UK medical experts who specialise in problems related to the long-term consequences of cancer treatment. It's designed to help people with ongoing symptoms from their cancer or its treatment.

Who can be referred to the Macmillan vMDT?

The vMDT will accept referrals for anyone experiencing complex or severe ongoing symptoms due to their cancer or its treatment. These ongoing problems can be as a result of any cancer type or treatment type, however long ago active treatment ended. The vMDT is not suitable for people experiencing emergency problems or who need a quick response.

How can I access the Macmillan vMDT?

Referrals to the vMDT must come from a UK-registered healthcare professional responsible for your care. We are unable to accept self-referrals from patients as medical advice will be offered, which could include tests or a course of treatment.

If you would like to be referred, there are three main options:

1 Existing appointments with your cancer care team

Discuss a referral to the vMDT with your cancer care team at your next appointment.

- Contact your healthcare professional with information about the vMDT prior to your appointment so they can understand how it might help you.

2 Getting in touch with your GP

If you are no longer attending follow-up appointments with the cancer care team that treated you, you may want to ask your GP to make a referral on your behalf.

- It would be helpful to take information about your cancer diagnosis and treatment with you to the appointment.

3 Other healthcare professionals involved in your care

If you are no longer attending follow-up appointments with the cancer care team that treated you, you may want to ask other healthcare professionals involved in your care to make a referral on your behalf.

As well as your GP this could be any other healthcare professional who may be supporting you such as a surgeon, nurse, dietitian or physiotherapist, for example.

What does my healthcare professional need to know about the Macmillan vMDT?

- All information about the Macmillan vMDT is available online at macmillan.org.uk/vmdt
- If your healthcare professional has any questions about the vMDT and making a referral, they can email vmdtcoordinator@christie.nhs.uk

What can I do in preparation for my referral to the Macmillan vMDT?

You can find a patient information and agreement leaflet within the 'key information' section at macmillan.org.uk/vmdt

It's important you're prepared to describe your ongoing symptoms and how they're affecting you – especially if they haven't been discussed previously. We recommend you complete the patient summary to help your healthcare professional, and the vMDT experts, understand what you're experiencing, so they can identify the best ways to help you.

Your healthcare professional will need all this information, including your agreement, to make a referral to the Macmillan vMDT for you.

What happens when I am referred to the vMDT?

Your healthcare professional will provide the vMDT with information about your cancer and its treatment. This information can't identify you – your details are kept anonymous. They will ask the vMDT for advice from a team of relevant professionals. For example, if you have ongoing gastrointestinal symptoms, they will ask for gastroenterology expert opinion.

The vMDT aims to respond to the healthcare professional making the referral as quickly as possible (within 2–4 weeks) after receiving the referral information.

Your healthcare professional will retain responsibility for your care throughout the vMDT referral process and beyond, so please speak to them with any questions. The vMDT's role is to provide advice only.

What happens if my healthcare professional chooses not to refer me to the vMDT?

The decision to refer you to the vMDT is very much a discussion between you and your healthcare professional: there is no guarantee they'll make a referral at your request.

Although you may be experiencing complex ongoing symptoms as result of your cancer treatment, your healthcare professional may want to explore other options before using the vMDT. They may make a referral to the vMDT at a later stage if your problems persist, despite the interventions they have tried.

What happens after the vMDT responds with their advice?

Your healthcare professional will discuss the advice given by the vMDT with you, and together you can plan for your ongoing care.

Possible next steps could include:

- The vMDT suggests further tests (your healthcare professional will arrange these).
- A referral to see other healthcare professionals with the relevant expertise.
- The care provided by your current team will continue as before.

Please note – How quickly things progress will depend on your local NHS waiting times or other time dependent factors.



For more information, please see macmillan.org.uk/vmdt