



Understanding your Chemotherapy



UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHEMOTHERAPY

What is chemotherapy?

Chemotherapy is the medical term for drugs used to treat cancer. It is often called “chemo.” There are 2 main types:

- Chemotherapy that kills all fast-growing cells, including cancer cells.
- Chemotherapy that helps your immune system fight the cancer.



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What is chemotherapy?

Your doctor may recommend chemotherapy to:

- Cure the cancer or prevent cancer recurrence (long-term remission).
- Get you ready for surgery or radiation therapy, or treat any remaining cancer after those treatments.
- Control pain and other cancer symptoms.



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How will I get chemotherapy?

Chemotherapy is given in different forms. You may get it as a pill you take at home, from an IV or as a shot.



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How will I get chemotherapy?

If you get chemotherapy through an IV, you may have a small device placed in your body called a “central line”. Your health care team can connect an IV tube here. If you need chemotherapy or other medications often, this is faster than putting a new IV tube in a vein for each treatment.



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How will I get chemotherapy?

There are different types of central lines, including a PICC line and a port. Which type you get depends on how long your doctor thinks you will need it, and other factors.



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Taking chemotherapy as a pill

You have more responsibility if you get chemotherapy as a pill.

You will need to:

- Handle the medication correctly.
- Follow the instructions carefully.
- Tell your health care team about all your other medications, including any new ones and any herb or vitamin supplements.



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Taking chemotherapy as a pill

- Know if any foods or drinks affect your medication.
- Talk to your care team about how to safely get rid of extra medication if your treatment plan is changed. Do not throw these medications in your trash or flush them down your toilet.



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How will I know if my chemotherapy is working?

How well chemotherapy works depends on your type of cancer, stage and other factors. You usually have tests to learn if the cancer is responding to treatment. These may include scans and tests of your blood, urine and bone marrow.

Ask your doctor what the plan will be to see if your treatment is working.



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Phone numbers to remember

- Oncology Dietitians **503-418-9731**
- Medical Hematology/Oncology Clinic at CHH2
Clinic Phone (M-F from 8am -5pm) **503-494-6594***
- Hematologic Malignancies Clinic at CHH2
Triage Nurse **503-418-0669***
– If your caregiver becomes sick, please call the triage line for advice on how to stay safe.
Clinic Scheduling **503-494-5058**

*These phone numbers will connect you to the on-call physician when the clinic is closed.



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Contacting your Community Hematology/Oncology (CHO) team

Regular clinic hours are 7 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Beaverton Clinic

15700 S.W. Greystone Court, Beaverton, OR 97006

971-262-9000

East Portland (Adventist) Clinic

10000 SE Main St., Suite 350 Portland, OR 97216

971-262-9800

Gresham (Mt. Hood) Clinic

24988 SE Stark St., Suite 140 Gresham, OR 97030

971-262-9500

Northwest (Good Samaritan) Clinic

1130 NW 22nd Ave., Suite 150 Portland, OR 97210

971-262-9600

Tualatin (Meridian) Clinic

19260 SW 65th Ave. Suite 140 Tualatin, OR 97062

971-262-9700

A provider is available for emergencies after-hours (before 7 a.m. & after 5:30 p.m.) through your clinic phone number.

Thank you!

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Certificate of Completion

SIGNATURE

DATE