



York and Scarborough  
Teaching Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Malignancy of Unknown Origin (MUO)

Information for patients, relatives and carers

① For more information:

**York and Scarborough Hospital Patients**

Please phone the MUO Pathway Navigator

on York 01904 724516

# **Introduction**

A Malignancy of Unknown Origin (MUO) is the term we use when a patient is diagnosed as having a suspected cancer and require further investigations to help find the origin of the cancer. When an MUO is diagnosed this can be very hard to accept and even with tests, the primary cancer cannot be found. You'll probably be coping with difficult feelings, so it is important to get the support you need.

You have been given this leaflet to provide you with information about the MUO Specialist Nurses, how to contact them and how they can help you. We hope you find this leaflet useful but if you have any further questions please feel free to ask.

## **Who is the service for?**

The service is available for you, your family and or your carers if you are having further investigations or treatment for a Malignancy of Unknown Origin.

## **Who is an MUO Specialist Nurse?**

An MUO Specialist Nurse is a registered nurse who has training in caring for patients diagnosed with cancer when the origin of their cancer is still to be identified or cannot be identified. There are MUO specialist nurses based at York and Scarborough Hospitals and work as part of the wider cancer team.

# How can a Specialist Nurse help?

A Specialist Nurse can help you in the following ways;

- A contact for you, your family and carers within the hospital throughout your care episode
- Information, support, and advice about your illness and tests you may receive
- Advice on managing symptoms that you may have as a result of your illness
- Identifying sources of practical help
- Liaison with other people who may be involved with your care. This may be the doctors in the hospital, your GP, dietician, district nurse, and community nurse or benefits advisor

# **How do I contact a Specialist Nurse?**

The MUO nurse can be contacted directly;

## **York Hospital Patients**

8am - 6pm, Monday to Friday on 01904 724516

## **Scarborough Hospital Patients**

9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday on 01723 342228

**If you require urgent attention out-of-hours  
contact Ward 31 on 01904 726031**

## **Useful Resources**

### **Macmillan Cancer Support – Helpline**

Tel: 0808 808 0000 [www.macmillian.org.uk](http://www.macmillian.org.uk)

A UK charity supporting people affected by cancer: Their Support Line is a valuable source of information and advice. In selected cases they may be able to help financially.

### **Cancer Care Centre, York**

The York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE Tel: 01904 721166. Open Monday to Friday 9am to 4.00pm

The Cancer Care Centre offers an information and wellbeing service for patients, families and carers.

### **Cancer Information and Support Service, Scarborough**

Scarborough Hospital, Main Entrance, Scarborough, YO12 6QL. Tel: 01723 342606.

Open Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm

The Information Service offers information and support for patients, families and carers.

### **Cancer of Unknown Primary Foundation**

[www.cupfoundjo.org](http://www.cupfoundjo.org)

This is a useful website offering support and advice for patient, relatives and carers who have been diagnosed with Malignancy of Unknown Origin.

## **Tell us what you think of this leaflet**

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact:

### **York Hospital Patients**

Please contact the Nurses on 01904 724516.  
Malignancy of Unknown Origin, Clinical Nurse  
Specialists.

### **Scarborough Hospital Patients**

Please contact the Nurses on 01723 342228.  
Malignancy of Unknown Origin, Clinical Nurse  
Specialists.

## **Teaching, training and research**

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

## **Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)**

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email [pals@york.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@york.nhs.uk).

An answer phone is available out of hours.

# Leaflets in alternative languages or formats

Please telephone or email if you require this information in a different language or format, for example Braille, large print or audio.

如果你要求本資 不同的 或 式提供，電  
或發電

Jeżeli niniejsze informacje potrzebne są w innym języku lub formacie, należy zadzwonić lub wysłać wiadomość e-mail

Bu bilgileri değişik bir lisanda ya da formatta istiyorsanız lütfen telefon ediniz ya da e-posta gönderiniz

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Email: [access@york.nhs.uk](mailto:access@york.nhs.uk)

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