

Information for patients undergoing investigations

Why have I been referred to the Malignancy of Unknown origin (MUO) team.

Your GP or hospital doctor may have organised some tests due to some symptoms you have been experiencing. These results may have shown some abnormalities that require further investigation. This is because the results may have shown appearances which are outside the normal expected range and we need to investigate to determine what may have caused this. This includes ruling out the possibility of cancer.

What happens after you have been referred?

Once a referral has been received, a member of the MUO team will initially make contact with you by either telephone or in person. The team will then ensure appropriate tests are undertaken to help us make a diagnosis depending on your wishes and suitability for treatment.

There are various types of tests and scans and the doctor or nurses will recommend the most appropriate tests at each stage of your investigation and we will provide you with verbal or written information about these.

To keep the number of appointments to a minimum, the team will review the results of these tests and where appropriate phone you to let you know the next steps in your pathway.

If any of your investigations confirm a cancer diagnosis your case will be referred to a specialist multidisciplinary meeting (MDM). This is where a team of specialist doctors and nurses will discuss all your results and decide on the best management plan.

You will be then offered an appointment to see the team that is best able to help you with your diagnosis, explain the next steps in your care and let you know if you need any

If a cancer is ruled out you will be discharged back to your GP or the hospital doctor who referred you.

Support for patients referred to the MUO team.

Patients who may be facing a cancer diagnosis may have a lot of questions and concerns due to the uncertainty around this. It is sometimes hard to make sense of what is happening to you and can be difficult to explain to other people. We are here to help answer your questions, address your concerns and support you through this difficult time. Below are some contact details to help you through this. Throughout the investigations phase you will have a 'key worker' from the MUO team. This is someone you can contact with any problems or questions you may have.

Tel. (Mobile): 07718863905

Macmillan Cancer Support

www.macmillan.org.uk

Acute Oncology team – UHB

Telephone 07789651543

Information for Patients

If you require this information in another format, such as a different language, large print, braille or audio version please ask a member of staff or email patientexperience@uhb.nhs.uk.