



Patient Information Leaflet: Mesothelioma Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)

Why do I have this leaflet?

You have recently been told you have, or could have, mesothelioma. We would like a second opinion from specialists in mesothelioma about your diagnosis and your best options for treatment and care.

For patients living in our area, this second opinion comes from a specialist multidisciplinary team (MDT) hosted by Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. We would like to refer you to this MDT.

This leaflet will help you understand what this team does, and what happens next.

What is mesothelioma?

Mesothelioma is a rare cancer which affects the lining of some organs in the body. It is most often found in the lungs (pleura) but can also be found in the abdomen (peritoneum), heart (pericardium) and testes. It is usually caused by contact with asbestos.

What is a multidisciplinary team?

A multidisciplinary team (MDT) is a group of healthcare staff who come together to:

- give a specialist opinion on a diagnosis
- suggest treatment and care which will work best for a patient

Who makes up the MDT?

The MDT is made up of senior doctors and nurses from across our hospitals. These doctors and nurses have a lot of experience in mesothelioma. They know about all the treatment options and clinical trials for people with mesothelioma.

How am I referred to the MDT?

We will send your information to the MDT. This information includes things like scans and biopsy results.

We normally send your information to the MDT when you've just been diagnosed, but we can do it at any point in your treatment and care. We will always talk to you before we share your information.

What happens when I'm referred to the MDT?

The MDT meets weekly, so your case will be talked about quickly. They look at your information and:

- agree your diagnosis
- advise on the best treatment options for you
- suggest any clinical trials that might work for you
- make sure you have the chance to speak to a specialist nurse



The MDT shares their advice back with us, and we talk to you about your options.

Is my information securely sent and stored?

Yes, any information sent about you to the MDT is sent using secure NHS systems and stored securely.

Do I have a choice about being referred?

We would like the MDT to review your information because we know this gives you the best treatment and care possible. But, you always have a choice about who is involved in your care, and you can say that you don't want the MDT to give us their opinion.

If you're not sure, or you have any worries, please speak to us about this.

Do I have a choice about my treatment and care?

Yes, you always have a choice about your treatment and care. We will talk to you about your options and we will help you to make the best decision for you.

Where can I get more information about mesothelioma?

We have 3 mesothelioma clinical nurse specialists working across our hospitals. They are funded by the charity Mesothelioma UK and are here to help you and your family.

You can get in touch with them using the numbers below:

- Leah Taylor and Helen Wallace – 0191 293 4148
- Joanne Anderson – 0191 569 9883

You can also visit the Mesothelioma UK website for more information about mesothelioma at <https://www.mesothelioma.uk.com/>