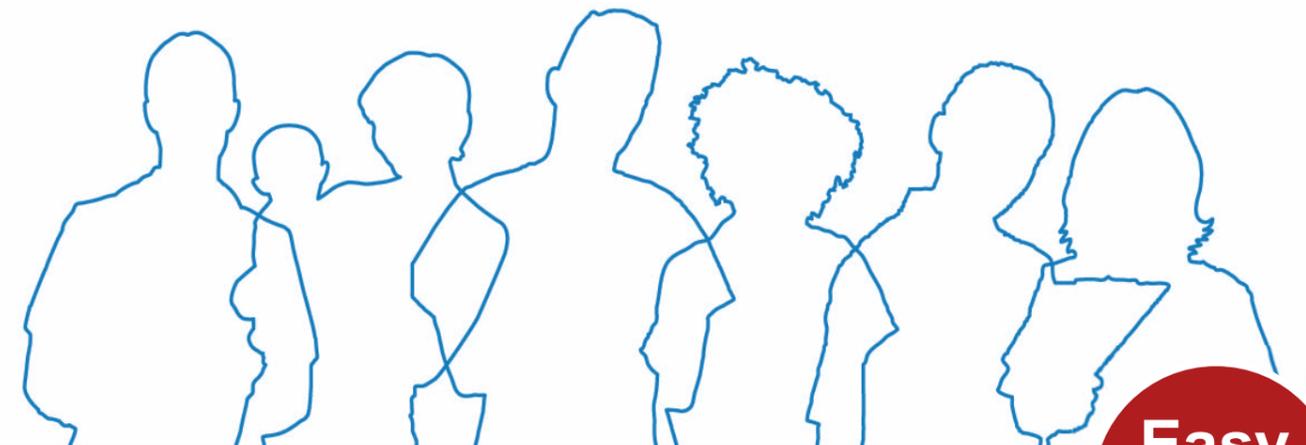


# Having Chemotherapy



**This book tells you  
what happens when you  
have Chemotherapy  
tablets.**



GHPI1145-04-12  
Authors: Patient Experience Team (Patient & Public Involvement) and Practice Development Team, Oncology  
Review due: April 2014  
[www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk)

Easy words by Mencap. Most pictures provided by Photosymbols. These leaflets have been produced in partnership with staff, patients and carers and in partnership with the '4 Me About Me' Group supported by 2Gether NHS Trust.

© Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

**BETTER FOR YOU**

**Easy  
Read**

# This book has 3 parts called

1. Before you have Chemotherapy Page 2

2. Getting your Chemotherapy tablets Page 7

3. Taking your Chemotherapy tablets Page 8

## Learning Disability Nurses



There are special nurses at the hospital called **Learning Disability Liaison Nurses**. You can ask to see a Learning Disability Liaison Nurse if you need some support when you come to hospital.

If you want more information call **08454 224 985** or **08454 224 953**.

## 3. Taking your Chemotherapy tablets



### If you feel ill

If you feel ill call us.



You or your carer can call us at any time of the day or night.

The telephone number is  
**08454 223 444.**

## 1. Before you have Chemotherapy

### What is Chemotherapy?

Chemotherapy is a way of treating cancer. Lots of people call it Chemo for short.



Chemo is special medicine that helps your body fight cancer.



The medicine will be in small tablets that you have to take.



You will have to go to the hospital to get your tablets. We will tell you when to go.



Your carer can go with you.

# 1. Before you have Chemotherapy

## Having a blood test



You have to have a blood test before you can have Chemo.



A blood test is when someone puts a needle into your arm to get a little bit of blood.

It might hurt a little bit but it is very important.



You might have a blood test at your doctor's surgery before you go to the hospital.



Or you might have a blood test when you are at the hospital.

# 3. Taking your Chemotherapy tablets

## At home



It is very important that you take your tablets at the right times.

If you don't they might not work properly.



Your Chemo tablets might make you feel tired.

You might want to rest in the day.



Make sure you drink lots of water or squash.

Try to have 8 drinks a day.

## 2. Getting your Chemotherapy tablets



### Getting your tablets

Someone will come and get you when it is your turn to get your Chemo tablets.



They will take you to a quiet place. Your carer can go with you.



The nurse will give you your tablets.

They will also give you information about your tablets like

- when to take your tablets
- how you might feel when you are taking your tablets.



Then you can go home.

## 1. Before you have Chemotherapy

### Going to the hospital



When you get to the hospital go to the reception desk and tell the person your name



They will tell you to wait in the waiting room.



Sometimes the waiting room is very busy.



If you would like to sit in a quiet place tell the person on reception.

They will try to find you a quiet place to sit.

# 1. Before you have Chemotherapy

## The waiting room



In the waiting room there is a shop. You can buy drinks and snacks.



There is also a place where you can get information about cancer.

The staff are very friendly. They can give you information and answer your questions.



If you leave the waiting room for any reason tell the person on reception.

Give the person on reception your mobile phone number. They will call you when it is time for your chemo.



If you don't have a mobile phone then they will give you a **pager**.

A **pager** is a small machine that will bleep when it is time for your chemo.

# 1. Before you have Chemotherapy

## Seeing the doctor



You will go and see the doctor before they give you your Chemo tablets.



The doctor will ask you how you are feeling. They will check that you are ok to have your Chemo.



After you have talked to the doctor you will go back to the waiting room.