



Patient Care Reinvented.

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Welcome to the Cancer Care Clinic

Introduction

Patients and families have told our team that a cancer diagnosis can be overwhelming. We hope this booklet provides you with some information of what you can expect as you begin your treatment. In addition to this booklet, we will provide you with other resources that have been put together by our partner cancer centres and home care services to help support you throughout your cancer journey.

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Acknowledgements:

Our partner centres are Stronach Regional Cancer Centre, Southlake Hospital, North York General Hospital, Markham-Stouffville Hospital, Mackenzie Health, and Home & Community Care of the Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN).

English: This information is important! If you have trouble reading this, ask someone to help you.

Italian: Queste informazioni sono importanti! Se ha difficoltà a leggere questo, chiedi aiuto a qualcuno.

Spanish: ¡Esta información es importante! Si tiene dificultad en leer esto, pida que alguien le ayude.

Welcome to Humber River Hospital's Cancer Care Clinic.

We offer treatment, follow-up and supportive cancer care to you and your family, including:

- Specialized care from all professions
- Links to Regional Radiation Centres
- Education about your cancer diagnosis, treatment and survivorship
- Nursing care to give cancer medications, therapies and supportive care treatments
- Access to research by taking part in clinical trials
- Links to Home & Community Care.

We care about you and the treatment that you receive. To make sure the care meets your expectations, it is very important that you take an active role in your care.

This booklet describes what you can expect at the clinic and the team members involved in your care. We want to help you pinpoint any concerns and direct your questions to the right person on the team.

What do I need to know about my appointments?

We encourage you to bring a family member with you to all your appointments, **including your first appointment**. We will give you appointments for lab tests, treatment and doctor's exams.

It is very important that you **keep your scheduled appointments**.

We space your treatments out based on your treatment plan and **you should not change them unless you are sick**. The changes you make may have a bearing on your overall treatment schedule. Unlike other medical appointments, cancer treatments will often affect your activities and your ability to work or care for other members of your family.

If you must change an appointment or need to discuss a scheduling change, please call **(416) 242-1000 ext. 21500** to speak to a clerical support associate. If no one is available to speak with you, please leave your name, phone number and a brief description of the problem on the answering machine. Please remember to speak clearly and slowly. Someone will call you back during regular business hours. Please note that the doctors and the nurses do not have access to the complete schedule.

When you come to your appointment, please arrive no more than 15 minutes before your scheduled time and register at the reception desk.

About the Cancer Care Clinic

When is the clinic open?

We are open from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., except for Statutory Holidays.

Where is the clinic located?

This clinic is located on the first floor. The closest hospital entrances are the East Entrance or Portal A at the south side (200 Sir William Hearst Avenue) of the hospital. The closest parking lot is the East Parking garage.

How do I contact the clinic?

If you have questions or concerns about your condition and want to speak to a nurse, let the clerical support associate know. The nurse either will speak with you right away if she is available or will call you back as soon as she is able to do so.

The clinic phone number is
(416) 242-1000 ext. 21500



Due to safety and space issues, only one person may go with you to each appointment.



How can we work together to keep you safe?



1 Make sure we know you are the right person before we give you your treatment

- We will give you an armband every time you come to the clinic. This helps every team member to know who you are.
- Before we start any tests or procedures, or give you your treatment, we will ask your name and check your hospital number, called the “H number”. This number is unique to you.

2 Your medications from home

- Bring your medications, or an updated list of your medications, with you each time you come to the clinic.
- Tell your nurse if there have been changes to the medications you take at home.

3 Your clinic visits for treatment

For your safety, we have a 2-day model for clinic visits.

- On day 1, the nurse and doctor will assess you and may draw blood.
- Chemotherapy is then scheduled on a different day so that our pharmacists can double check your blood work results, make sure the dose of your treatment is correct, and prepare your chemotherapy.

4 Preventing falls

- Use your walker, cane or wheelchair when you are at the clinic. Wear non-slip footwear.
- Let your nurse or doctor know if you have been unsteady on your legs, have increased weakness or drowsiness, or have fallen in the past 6 months.
- If you are at risk for falls, we will give you a yellow armband as a way to tell the team that you may need additional assistance.

5 Electronic systems for your safety

We use a digital system to integrate different areas of your care into one location. Some systems work together to keep you safe are:

- Systems that monitor your vital signs
- Pharmacy equipment that prepares your chemotherapy (Robotic Intravenous Automation known as RIVA)
- A communication system that shares your information to other members of your care team
- Intravenous (IV) pumps that have special safety features.

6 Clean your hands

Cleaning your hands can protect you from infections and help stop germs from spreading.

- Clean your hands when entering or leaving the clinic. There are hand sanitizers available along the hallways.
- Wash your hands after using the bathroom or if you help someone to use the bathroom.
- If you or a family member have a cough or cold, wear a mask to prevent the spread of germs.
- Remind visitors in your home to also wash their hands and avoid visiting you if they are not feeling well.

What can I expect at my clinic visit?

What to bring to each clinic visit

- Health card
- Photo identification (for example, a driver's license or credit card)
- All medications you are taking at home including over-the-counter medications, herbal medications, vitamins and supplements. These should be in their original containers
- Name and phone number of your family doctor
- Name and phone number of your pharmacy
- A family member
- Your email address

Please update your personal contact information as needed. Using your email, you can register for MY Humber Health to access your test results and receive automated appointment reminders.

Blood tests

Before your scheduled doctor's appointment, you may need to have your blood drawn. If you do not have a venous access device (for example, Port-a-Cath or PICC line), all your blood work is done at the Ambulatory Clinic Laboratory. Bring your appointment letter and health card to the Ambulatory Clinic Laboratory, located in the main corridor on the main level (1st floor, across from the Gift Shop). If you do have a venous access device, your nurse will provide you with more information about your device needs.

Waiting times

Although we give you specific times to arrive for blood tests, exams and treatments, unfortunately you will often still have to wait. Cancer treatments depend on your blood work results and blood work can take up to two hours to come back from the lab. We will often make a separate appointment for your doctor to assess you and give you your treatment.

For your comfort and to help pass the time, feel free to bring a book to read, crossword puzzles, knitting or your laptop computer/tablet. We allow cell phones in the waiting room.

We do understand how frustrating and tiring it can be to wait to see the doctor or to get in for your treatment. We take this very seriously. We will try to get you in to see the doctor as quickly as possible.

Your chemotherapy treatments

Before you start treatment, we will give you information about your chemotherapy, your treatment plan, medications involved, potential side effects, and any tests and procedures you need. We will also book an orientation session for you with the oncology team.

Each person responds differently to treatment. We regularly check for specific symptoms, such as nausea and fatigue. It is very important that you let us know how you are feeling. An After Hours Symptom Management telephone service is also available. Ask your nurse for more information about this service.

Unfortunately, due to space and safety issues, your relatives/visitors will not be able to stay with you during your treatment. However, they may come in and out periodically to check on you.

If you need radiation therapy, your doctor will refer you to a cancer centre that is close to your home for evaluation of radiation therapy. You will meet with the radiation oncologist and the team at the radiation centre to receive more information about your radiation treatment.

Follow-up clinic visits

At the end of your appointment, we will give you an appointment for your next clinic visit, or we will mail one to you after your appointment. We may also give you appointments for tests and/or procedures or referrals to see other health care professionals.

How You are Feeling is Important to Us - Please Let Us Know!

We want to know how you are feeling each time you come to the Cancer Care Clinic. Only you can tell us how you are feeling. Your Symptoms Matter (source: Cancer Care Ontario).

We will work together to gather information:

YOU

Using the Edmonton Symptom Assessment System (ESAS) tool, you will update us on how you are feeling based on nine different symptoms common to patients with cancer. At each visit, before you can see the doctor, your nurse will review your concerns with you in more detail.

Edmonton Symptom Assessment System: Numerical Scale Regional Palliative Care Program	
Please circle the number that best describes:	
No pain	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Worst possible pain
Not tired	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Worst possible tiredness
Not nauseated	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Worst possible nausea
Not depressed	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Worst possible depression
Not anxious	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Worst possible anxiety
Not drowsy	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Worst possible drowsiness
Best appetite	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Worst possible appetite
Best feeling of wellbeing	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Worst possible feeling of wellbeing
No shortness of breath	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Worst possible shortness of breath
Other problem	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Patient's Name _____ Date _____ Time _____	
Complete by (check one)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Patient	
<input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver	
<input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver assisted	

YOUR NURSE

Your nurse will keep track of any symptom issues, psychosocial concerns and all treatment-related side effects you have. It is very important that you let us know how you are feeling in between treatments so we can get an accurate picture of how the treatments are affecting you.

YOUR DOCTOR

Your oncologist will work with you and your family to direct your treatment plan. Please be comfortable preparing questions or concerns before you see your doctor.

In addition to chemotherapy and follow-up, we will also provide support if you have concerns about how to manage your symptoms, or if you need to talk about your diagnosis and/or side effects of your treatment.

Your Team and Questions You Might Ask

A group of health care professionals make up your cancer care (oncology) team. You may receive care from some of these team members during your visit to the clinic.



Child Life Specialist

Speak with your nurse if you have more questions or concerns or would like to be referred to the child life specialist.

A child life specialist helps children and families cope with stressful situations that occur at the hospital, like having an ill family member. A child life specialist can help if you have the following concerns or questions:

1. I do not know what to say to my children about my illness. How do I explain cancer to a child? What do I tell them?
2. I am worried about how my illness will affect my children. How will they deal with all of these changes? What signs and behaviours should I look for?
3. I do not want my children to worry about me. How can I ease their worries?
4. I am hiding aspects of my illness from my children. Is this OK? What is OK to hide and what should I tell them?
5. It would be nice to meet other families dealing with the same issues. Are there support services available for my children and me? Are there services, like camps or playgroups, for my children?

My Questions or Concerns:

Clerical Support Associates

To speak with a clerical support associate, call (416) 242-1000 ext. 21500

The clerical support associates at the clinic are your gateway into the treatment process. They create your appointment schedules and make your appointments for lab tests and other outside tests. They also make sure we meet infection control processes and safety checks for the clinic. A clerical support associate can help you if you have any of the following questions or concerns:

1. I am staying temporarily with my daughter (son, etc.). Whom do I tell?
2. I have been having a cough with a little fever. Should I wait and tell the nurse?
3. I need to change my appointment. How do I do that?
4. My doctor told me I could come in early for my appointment today. Who do I speak with to come in at 8:00 a.m. instead of 11:30 a.m.?
5. I have an appointment for a CT scan but I am not feeling well. Who do I call to change that appointment?

My Questions or Concerns:

Clinical Trials Coordinator

Ask your oncologist if there are any clinical trials available for your condition. Speak with your nurse if you have more questions/concerns or would like to be considered for a clinical trial.

This is the person who coordinates the clinical trials that are taking place at HRH. The clinical trials coordinator will help you learn about the research treatment options available to you. The clinical trials coordinator can help you if you have the following questions or concerns:

1. Where do I find out about research? I am not sure if my doctor is taking part in any research activities. How do I find out?
2. I have received several types of treatment already. My disease has gotten worse. Are there other treatments available to me?
3. My friend is taking an experimental drug at another hospital. Will this treatment work for me? How do I get this treatment? Will I need to pay for the experimental drug?

My Questions or Concerns:

Home & Community Care Case Manager

If you feel you need help to be safe at home, please ask the nurse if a homecare referral may help.

The home & community care case managers work with the team for all your homecare-related concerns. They can assess and provide you with support in your home. They also work with us when you need chemotherapy at home. The home & community care case manager can help you if you have the following questions or concerns:

1. I want to remain in my own home for as long as possible, but I can no longer clean my home, care for my yard, or get to the grocery store. What should I do?
2. How do I find information on community support programs, such as transportation services and friendly visiting?
3. I am looking for in-home support, such as nursing, personal care assistance and respite support. Can you help me?
4. How do I choose which residential care facility is best for me?

My Questions or Concerns:

Medication Reimbursement Specialist

The cost of some medications you may use to manage symptoms from your illness or treat side effects from your cancer treatment may not be covered by the government.

The medication reimbursement specialist, also known as a drug access facilitator or drug navigator, can help you find private and public drug funding to cover these costs. While waiting for coverage to start, the medication reimbursement specialist can also find resources that you qualify for that can help you access medication without further delay. The medication reimbursement specialist can apply for government funding for more costly medications. Where there is no public or private funding available, they can help you apply to patient support programs from drug manufacturers, if applicable. The medication reimbursement specialist can help you if you have the following questions or concerns:

1. I do not have any drug coverage. My medication is expensive. How can I afford it?
2. I have bought my medication already. Can I get reimbursed for it?
3. I am over the age of 65. Do I still have to pay for my medication?
4. What is a patient support program? Is there one for the medication I am on?

My Questions or Concerns:

Nurse Practitioner

The nurse practitioner (NP) is a nurse who has special qualifications in helping you manage any symptoms or concerns related to your cancer treatments. The NP works very closely with your oncology doctor, nurses, and other members of the team. The NP may assess you in between your visits with your doctor or during your cancer treatments, depending on the type of concerns you have. They may order additional tests and medications if you need them to help manage your symptoms. The nurse practitioner can help you if you have the following questions or concerns:

1. I don't really understand my treatment/disease. Can you explain it to me (and my family)?
2. I am experiencing nausea, pain, tiredness, shortness of breath, or a new problem and I am concerned.
3. I am constipated and I need help to relieve it.
4. I am having trouble with chemotherapy side effects.
5. I would like to talk about what I can do to plan for future care.

My Questions or Concerns:

Oncology Doctors (Oncologist)

If you have questions or concerns between treatments, please keep a detailed list to review with your doctor at your next appointment.

For more immediate concerns, call the nurse at (416) 242-1000 ext. 21500

Your oncologist is a doctor specially qualified in the treatment of cancer. They understand the various types of cancer and the best current treatment for each. They know what to look for regarding the symptoms of cancer. They know which tests to do to make an accurate diagnosis and is able to advise you and your family on the best treatment for your type of cancer. You are a partner in developing your plan of care and your oncologist wants to hear your concerns and questions.

Your oncologist will see you before each treatment and make all necessary changes to your treatment plan based on your how you are feeling as well as your lab results.

An oncologist can help you if you have the following questions or concerns:

1. What kind of cancer do I have? What stage is my cancer at?
2. What are all my treatment options? What treatments are best for me?
3. How long will my chemotherapy treatments last?
4. How often will I be checked after treatment?
5. What are the chances that the tumour will recur? What is my prognosis?
6. What do I need to do to prepare for chemotherapy? Is there anything that is important to avoid before or during treatment?
7. What are the risks and benefits to me if I have this treatment?
8. If I have not had surgery to remove the cancer, will I need to have surgery before or after chemotherapy?
9. Do I need to see my surgeon again after I receive treatments in the Cancer Clinic?
10. What is radiation therapy? Will I need to have this treatment?

My Questions or Concerns:

Oncology Nurse

The nurse in the oncology clinic coordinates all of your care. They have special training in oncology and cancer care treatments and all related symptoms and side effects.

An oncology nurse can help you if you have the following questions or concerns:

1. My cancer surgery has changed the way my body looks and it makes me sad (or angry, depressed, scared, etc.). I do not know how to get over these feelings. Can you help me?
2. My sex drive is not the same. It is causing problems in my relationship with my husband (or wife, significant other). Is there a drug I can take?
3. My friend told me about a wonderful alternative treatment (for example, acupuncture, chelation therapy, "all natural drug", Chinese tea) to try. Is this OK to do? Will it affect my treatment?
4. My religion says I should have faith and God will heal me. Is it OK to take these medications? What if God punishes me for this?
5. I still want to have children. Will it be possible after my treatments? Is it OK to get pregnant when I am on treatment?
6. I really do not want to make decisions about my care. Is it OK for my son to make all of my decisions?
7. I feel so tired (nauseated, depressed, etc.) all of the time. I can hardly get dressed in the morning. Is this normal? Will I ever get over it? Is there a medication to help?
8. I am almost finished with my treatment. What will happen now? What should I worry about? Whom do I contact if something happens?
9. Should I be worried about my daughter getting breast cancer? I heard it runs in families.

My Questions or Concerns:

Oncology Pharmacist

For your convenience, Rexall™ Pharmacy is located on the main floor (level 1, beside the Central Elevators) to fill your take-home prescriptions.

The clinic has oncology pharmacists that prepare and dispense your chemotherapy medicines. The oncology pharmacist has special training on chemotherapy medicines. For your safety, they oversee all orders and work directly with the nurses and oncologists to address any questions regarding reactions to medicines and all related best practices. An oncology pharmacist can help you if you have the following questions or concerns:

1. If I feel fine, do I really need to take my medicines?
2. Could we review what each medicine does for me and how each one works?
3. Do my medicines work safely with my over-the counter medicines, vitamins and diet?

My Questions or Concerns:

Psychiatrist (Psychosocial Oncology)

It is important to look after yourself when you are having cancer treatments. You may feel anxiety, sad, depressed, or fearful. Talking to someone about your feelings and having professional counselling may be helpful. Your oncology doctor may refer you to a psychiatrist, who is an important doctor in your Cancer Care team. The psychiatrist supports you and your family so that you can better cope with the many different feelings you may be experiencing while adjusting to the illness. A psychiatrist can help you if you have the following questions or concerns:

1. I am stressed or anxious most of the time.
2. I have trouble concentrating, I feel sad, and I cry easily.
3. I feel alone, hopeless and guilty.
4. I have thoughts of harming myself.

My Questions or Concerns:

Registered Dietitian

Speak with your nurse if you have more questions or concerns, or would like to be referred to the registered dietitian.

Cancer and related treatments affect your appetite, weight and nutritional status. The registered dietitian can answer any questions you may have and help to support your nutritional needs. The registered dietitian can help you with any of the following questions or concerns:

1. I have trouble eating because of loss of appetite, sore mouth/throat, taste changes, nausea, or vomiting. What can I do?
2. I have been having issues with constipation or diarrhea. What can I do?
3. I have noticed a change in weight (weight loss or gain). Is this normal?
4. Someone has suggested I take an herbal or natural supplement. Can I take this during my treatment?
5. I have no energy to shop for groceries or cook my meals. What can I do?
6. Whom can I talk to about proper nutrition during my treatment?

My Questions or Concerns:

Social Worker

Speak with your nurse if you have more questions or concerns, or would like to be referred to the social worker.

The social worker helps answer practical concerns, like finances and transportation, to more emotional concerns, such as the fears and anxieties that come with a cancer diagnosis. A social worker can help you if you have the following questions or concerns:

1. I really do not know the best way to handle the feelings (for example, anger, fear, sadness, anxiety, denial) that I have since I found out I have a cancer diagnosis. They are interfering with my family and/or my job. What can I do?
2. My family and/or friends are avoiding me or do not seem comfortable talking about my diagnosis. Is there something I can do?
3. I am not able to do the same things at home or work that I used to do, like cooking dinner or doing laundry. For example, I am too tired, too nauseated, in pain, or too depressed. What services are available?
4. I would like to talk to people who are going through the same things I am experiencing. Where do I go?
5. I am so worried about money. What financial assistance is available? Is there a drug plan I can sign-up for?
6. I am concerned about hair loss. What do I do if my hair falls out?

My Questions or Concerns:

**Spiritual Care
Provider
(Chaplain)**

Speak with your nurse if you have more questions or concerns, or would like to be referred to the spiritual care provider.

A spiritual care provider meets with you and your family to help you cope with the spiritual and existential questions related to your illness. Spiritual care providers can help you find new meaning and hope. A spiritual care provider can help if you have the following concerns or questions:

1. Do you know of any helpful resources or spiritual exercises to help me re-focus? Is it possible for me to meet with a faith-specific representative?
2. How can I tap into my spirituality to help me find peace and hope?
3. I feel that I have lost my way and that I question everything that I used to believe. How can I find my faith again?
4. I feel so angry with God for allowing me to have this illness and then I feel guilty about being angry. Does God understand my feelings?
5. Is God punishing me? What did I do to deserve this?

My Questions or Concerns:

Additional Questions/Notes

Support for You Through Your Cancer Journey

Coping with cancer is a difficult process. The goal of the oncology team is to work with you to identify concerns, side effects and all related financial, emotional, and spiritual issues as you move through the treatment process. Although we will not be able to offer you all the services and support you may need at the clinic, we can refer you to community providers and support groups with whom we have developed wonderful partnerships. We can also provide you with a list of resources that you may find helpful as you go through your cancer journey.

Humber River Hospital's Patient & Family Resource Centre can also help you find information on illness, diagnostic tests, drugs, community resources and more. Call the Centre to obtain a customized information package in the language of your choice or visit the Centre to attend one of its free patient education classes.

The Patient and Family Resource Centre is located on Level 0. It is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Tel: (416) 242-1000 ext. 81200

Email: PFRC@hrh.ca

Web: <http://www.hrh.ca/findhealthinformation>

Patient Education Classes (Dates and Topics): <http://www.hrh.ca/PatientEducationClasses>

How to Get to Humber River Hospital

1235 Wilson Ave.,

Toronto, Ont. M3M 0B2

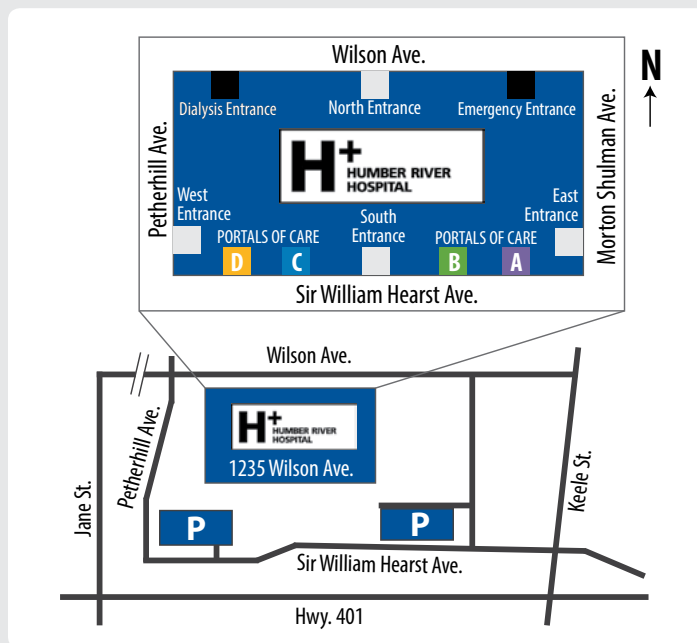
Tel: (416) 242-1000 ext. 21500

Visitor parking

There are 2 parking garages that you can access from Sir William Hearst Avenue. The East parking Garage is the closest garage to the Cancer Care Clinic. From there, you can enter the hospital using the East Entrance or Portal of Care A.

Humber River Hospital parking uses an automated system. Take a ticket upon entry and pay at one of the pay stations located in the hospital or at the parking office in the lot. You can pay for parking by cash or credit card.

There is a discounted rate for patients and their family who visit the clinic often for appointments. More information is available at the parking office.



Please do not park in the fire routes. You may be ticketed and/or towed!



