

Factsheet Guide for pharmacy teams



The Let's communicate cancer team with BOPA and NHS WT&E have designed three series of free downloadable factsheets to help all patient facing staff and in particular pharmacy teams.

These factsheets are guides for patient facing staff to achieve earlier cancer diagnosis (series 1) and pharmacy teams to help patients presenting with side effects of their cancer treatments (series 2). There is also a third series which will improve understanding of the types of cancer treatment.

The factsheets are recommended reading to improve your knowledge and prepare yourself with the questions to elicit that patients have red flag symptoms or are on cancer treatment.



Series 1

Recognising and referring red flag symptoms

These factsheets will give you comprehensive knowledge of what to look out for when patients present with symptoms or request repeat purchases of medication which may indicate a red flag cancer symptom. They have been written by BOPA and NHSWT&E colleagues.

- Red flag Symptoms: General
- Red flag symptoms: Breast
- Red flag symptoms: Lung
- Red flag symptoms: Prostate
- Red flag symptoms: Haematology/Blood
- Red flag symptoms: Bowel



Access and download these free of charge via the BOPA CancerHUB

CancerHUB: Factsheets Home - BOPA

There are complimentary animations on red flag symptoms available in Module 1 of Let's Communicate Cancer and in the BOPA CancerHUB.

CancerHUB: Play Your Part - BOPA

The full Let's Communicate Cancer course is available by clicking [here](#)
Version 1: The information provided is in line with current guidance on March 2023

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Series 2

Cancer treatment side effects

These factsheets help you with: what to say to find out a patient is on cancer treatment when they ask you for advice, assessment of the severities of presenting cancer treatment side effects and inform you on what advice to give your patients, including how and when to refer onwards as necessary. They have been written by the Let's Communicate Cancer team and NHSWT&E.



It is important to ask the following in patients presenting with symptoms:

- Do you take any medicines prescribed by your GP?
- Are you on any treatment in/ from the hospital?
- What condition do you have hospital treatment for?

IF A PATIENT IS ON CANCER TREATMENT OR TREATMENT FROM THE HOSPITAL, ALWAYS REFER TO YOUR PHARMACIST FOR FURTHER ASSESSMENT AND ADVICE.

- Assess the severity of the symptom

- Patient presenting with: Constipation
- Patient presenting with: Signs of infection and/or fever and chills, consider Neutropenic Sepsis
- Patient presenting with: Diarrhoea
- Patient presenting with: Nausea and Vomiting
- Patient presenting with: Pain associated with Peripheral Neuropathy
- Patient presenting with: A Rash
- Patient presenting with: Oral Mucositis



CancerHUB: Symptom factsheets - BOPA

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Series 3

Helping patients on types of cancer treatment in the pharmacy

These factsheets look at the different types of cancer treatment telling you what the treatment is, how it works and details of potential side effects. They have been written by the Let's Communicate Cancer team.

- Understanding: Chemotherapy
- Understanding: Radiotherapy
- Understanding: Hormone Therapy
- Understanding: Immunotherapy
- Understanding: Targeted cancer treatments



CancerHUB: Factsheets Home - BOPA

Please be aware that comprehensive information on individual cancer therapies is available from the Macmillan website.

Treatments A to Z | Macmillan Cancer Support

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