

Patient Guide



**For patients receiving
oncology treatments**

This guide contains general information about your treatments at the hospital and your follow-up with the CLSC.

Your nurse navigator in oncology:

Name: _____

Contact information: _____

Your treatments at the hospital

Access to the treatment room and its distinctive features

- **Only one person** can be with you in the treatment room.
- Pregnant visitors and children under the age of 12 **are not permitted** in the treatment room for safety reasons.
- Out of respect for other patients and the medical team, it is **essential that you arrive on time for your appointments**, whether with the oncologist for treatment, follow-up with the CLSC or with any other member of your medical team.
- Make sure that you are available for your telephone follow-ups.
- **Immediately inform the secretary OR your nurse navigator** if you are unable to make it to your appointment.
- If you have a Picc-Line™ catheter: wear a **short-sleeve shirt**.

What you need to bring to each of your chemotherapy treatments

- Your **hospital card** and your **appointment slip** (yellow sheet).
- The **information on the type of central vein access device** you have (e.g., Picc-Line™ or Port-a-cath™), if you have one.
- The **medications you need to take in the treatment room**, if any, at the time of your drip.

When you arrive at the department to receive your treatment, you must:

- **Inform the oncology desk** that you have arrived: a receptionist will register you and inform the nurse that you have arrived.
- Make sure to have on hand the **dates and times of your next appointments**. If you do not have any, talk to the secretary so that they can be scheduled.
- When the nurse is ready, **your name will be called over the intercom** and you can proceed to the treatment room.

During your treatment

- **You are not permitted to leave the treatment room** once your treatment has started. There are two bathrooms in the treatment room.
- If your treatment lasts several hours, **you can bring a meal and something to drink**.
 - ◇ There is a **microwave** in the room, but no refrigerator.
 - ◇ Avoid **meals with strong smells** out of consideration for the other patients.
 - ◇ **Anyone accompanying you** is not permitted to eat in the room for safety reasons.
- You **can bring something to help pass the time** (e.g., music player, portable computer, tablet, book, etc.).
 - ◇ **You are required to wear headphones or earbuds** when using an electronic device that produces sound so that you do not disturb the other patients in the room.
 - ◇ There is **no WiFi in the room**.
- Massage therapy is sometimes offered in the treatment

If you need to go to emergency

It is important to mention that **you are being followed by an oncologist and that you are receiving chemotherapy**.

Your follow-up at the CLSC

Before each treatment, it is **essential that you make an appointment at the CLSC or a test centre** to get a blood test done. If you have not had your blood test, we will not be able to give you your treatment.

Talk to your care team to find out the **minimum timeframe for getting your blood test done** (generally between 48 h and 72 h prior to treatment, with some exceptions).

- It is **your responsibility to schedule your appointments** for blood tests and to care for your central vein access device (e.g., Picc-Line™, Port-a-cath™).
- **If you are being followed by the homecare nurse**, you are still responsible for making sure that your appointments for your blood tests are scheduled, for the duration of your treatments.
- It is best to **schedule your appointments for your blood tests in the morning** so that the oncology team receives the results as fast as possible.
- It is important to **respect the date** of the blood test requested by the oncology team. If the blood test is done too early, the results will be inaccurate and the test will have to be redone. If the blood test is done **too late**, this will lead to delays in preparing your treatments.
- During your appointments, make sure to have **on hand the same documents** you have for your oncology treatments.

If you require the assistance of a nurse (outside of the CLSC's opening hours), please contact :

**Info-Santé — Dedicated line: 1-888-939-5050
24 hours a day | 7 days a week**