Enhanced supportive care service

Enhanced Supportive Care (ESC) is a new national initiative promoting better access, and earlier integration of supportive care within oncology and haematology clinics. It provides a fresh and modern approach to supporting you and your families through your cancer treatment.

At its heart is improved access to expertise in managing the adverse effects of cancer and cancer treatments. It benefits yourself, your family and our cancer clinicians, because timely supportive care, provided in a positive way, improves your experience.

The ESC clinic's purpose is to work alongside our patient's consultant led team and liaise with their GP and community - based health care professionals to treat symptoms, including side effects of treatment, and to provide support for financial, emotional and spiritual concerns. We also aim to provide you with high quality patient information and signpost yourself and family to other helpful agencies inside and outside the hospital.

The ESC clinics are held within outpatients and staffed by members of the Palliative Care Team.

What is meant by ESC?

ESC is the holistic, active care of patients and their families who are experiencing a potentially life-threatening illness. The goal of ESC is the achievement of the best quality of life for patients and their families. In addition many aspects of palliative care are applicable in conjunction with other treatments.

We are a multi-professional team including; doctors, nurses, allied health professionals (AHP) and a clinical psychologist, working alongside the consultant led team. We work closely with colleagues within the hospital, such as specialist nurses and also any community colleagues who are involved in your care such as your GP and district nursing team.

How does the Enhanced Supportive Care Team work?

- We are here to support you through your cancer treatment and provide early access to specialist support.
We work in partnership with your hospital consultant, GP and their medical and nursing teams.
Your hospital consultant and GP will remain responsible for your medical care.
Your specialist/hospital nursing team or district nurse will continue to manage your regular nursing needs.
Referrals can be made directly by you or by your consultant or specialist nurse, involved in your care.
Referral can be made once treatment has started and at any point need is identified.
This extra service is optional, and will not affect any part of your on-going care if you decline.

What can the Enhanced Supportive Care Team offer?
Advice and support on symptoms and an opportunity to discuss your thoughts and feelings within an outpatient setting.

- Pain management
- Anxiety management
- Fatigue management
- Breathlessness management
- Relaxation
- Help to stay active
- Well-being and quality of life
- Signposting to local services
- Symptom control
- Advanced care planning
- Social support
- Psychological support for you and family members
- Or just trying to feel as well as possible, for as long as possible