

# GP Education

## **Topic: Acute Oncology Service**

**Interviewer:** Dr Leslie Borrill, Leicester City GP and a Lead Appraiser

**Interviewee:** Annie Law – Acute Oncology Advanced Nurse Practitioner

**Time:** 12 minutes 52 seconds

### **Notes to accompany podcast:**

A new Acute Oncology Service was set up in 2013 for patients with known or existing oncology problems. The Acute Oncology Team is able to provide a rapid response to GPs rather than trying to contact the on-call registrar. The Team can give advice and if necessary facilitate admissions for any known cancer patients developing complications.

### **When to use the Service**

The service is for any known cancer patient:

- experiencing complications with their (non-surgical) treatment – chemotherapy and radiotherapy
- experiencing complications of their cancer e.g.

- spinal cord compression.

- ascites; if they do **not** have an appointment to see their oncologist within the next 2 weeks

Patients with pleural effusions or sudden onset of breathlessness are best managed at the General.

If patients are complaining of severe back pain, radiating in a band like pattern around the body, any weakness in their arms/legs, numbness or loss of sensation in arms/legs and have breast, lung, prostate or renal cancer, ring immediately for advice as it could be spinal cord compression.

The Acute Oncology Service will provide advice on patients with a new radiological diagnosis of cancer that has been reported on imaging requested by yourself in the community; if they have emergency type symptoms. It does not replace the two week wait service.

Referrals can be taken from Palliative Care Nurses.

### **How to Access the Service**

1. There is an electronic referral form available on the GP clinical systems
2. Phone the Macmillan Acute Oncology Advanced Nurse Practitioner  
Monday to Friday 09:00 – 17:00 hours on 0790 817 8232

