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