



All Wales Cancer Treatment Alert Card

Background:

All patients receiving systemic anti-cancer treatment (SACT) should be given a 24 hour contact number for specialist advice along with information about how and when to use the contact number. (AO service specification for Wales 2024) All Wales Cancer Treatment Alert cards have been developed following wide consultation, and approved by the All Wales SACT group in January 2023.

Alert card versions:

1. **Cancer Treatment Alert card** – for all adults receiving SACT (oncology and haematology)
2. **Paediatric Cancer Treatment Alert card** – for all children receiving SACT.
3. **Chemotherapy and DPD alert card** – for the small group of patients with DYPD genetic variation resulting in DPD deficiency receiving fluoropyrimidine chemotherapy (eg 5-fluorouracil or capecitabine).

Aims of the alert cards:

- Provide information to patients about who to contact and when, including the 24 hour contact number and key symptoms to report
- Provide a compact card which can be carried at all times
- Provide key information to non-specialist healthcare professionals to advise about immediate actions to take if patients present acutely unwell, and who to contact for specialist advice
- Use a format that can be recognised by healthcare professionals across Wales

The cards do not replace full verbal explanations and detailed patient information leaflets, but supplement these by providing a compact and portable reminder of key information and contact numbers.

Ordering more copies

Further supplies of the card can be ordered from Kingsbridge Print LTD.

Contact: Rob Evans

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Email: rob@kingsbridgeprint.co.uk

Quote your version number when ordering - these can be found in the table below.

Health Board / SACT Unit	Cancer Treatment Alert Card	Chemotherapy & DPD Alert Card	Paediatric Cancer Treatment Alert Card
Aneurin Bevan UHB	IP9001(k)ABUHB	N	N
Glan Clwyd Hospital (North Wales Cancer Treatment Centre (NWCTC))	IP9001(k)YGC	IP9002(k)YGC	N
Wrexham Maelor Hospital (Shooting Star Unit)	IP9001(k)WMH	IP9002(k)WMH	N
Ysbyty Gwynedd (Alaw Unit)	IP9001(k)YG	P9002(k)YG	N
University Hospital of Wales (Haematology)	IP9001(k)UHW	N	N
University Hospital of Wales (Teenage Cancer Trust)	IP9001(k)TCT	IP9002(k)TCT	N
Prince Charles Hospital (Haematology)	IP9001(k)PCH	N	N
Royal Glamorgan Hospital	IP9001(k)RGH	N	N
Hywel Dda UHB	IP9001(k)H DUHB	P9002(k)H DUHB	N
Singleton Hospital (Haematology)	P9001(k)SH HAEM	N	N
Singleton Hospital (Oncology)	IP9001(k)SH ONC	IP9002(k)SH ONC	N
Velindre Cancer Centre	IP9001(k)VCC	IP9002(k)VCC	N
Noah's Ark Children's Hospital for Wales	N	N	IP9000(k)

Changes to the card:

1. **Contact details:** You can request a change to the contact details used by liaising directly with the supplier Kingsbridge Print LTD. (using the contact details above)
2. **Any other changes:** need to be requested through the Cancer Network
Email: Wcn.walescancernetwork@wales.nhs.uk

How to access translations for non English / Welsh speakers

The Cancer Network are producing translations of the most requested languages for the patient information sections of the alert cards. These are available via the SACT section of the Clinical Hub on the Cancer Network website and can be downloaded and printed as required – [click here](#).

This translated information **must** be attached to the English/Welsh card so that the guidance for healthcare professionals is available to all staff managing the patients care.

A translator should be used to provide a full explanation when the card is given to the patient.

Who should be given which alert card?

1. **Cancer Treatment alert card:** should be given to all adult oncology and haematology patients receiving SACT.
2. **Paediatric Cancer Treatment alert card:** should be given to all oncology or haematology children (or their parents/ guardian) receiving SACT.
3. **Chemotherapy and DPD alert card:** give to all patients receiving fluoropyrimidine chemotherapy who have a DYPD genetic variant resulting in a DPD deficiency

When should it be given?

The card should be given at the beginning of treatment, ideally as part of a planned education / information session.

Who should give the card to the patient?

It should always be given to patients by a healthcare professional who is able to provide a full verbal explanation of the purpose of the card and when to use the contact numbers included. If possible, include close family members / friends in any explanations.

What needs to be written on the card?

The patient's details, full name of the treatment, the type of treatment (eg chemotherapy or immunotherapy) and consultants name need to be completed by the treating team to ensure that other healthcare professionals reviewing the unwell patient are clear of the type of treatment received and who is the treating consultant.

Checklist for staff of key points to include in verbal explanation of the cards to patients:

- The card should be carried at all times.
- The importance of contacting the specialist team using the contact numbers provided for advice for any of the symptoms outlined.
- The importance of reporting key symptoms **immediately** and not waiting until the next working day.
- Ensure they have a thermometer and understand how and when to check their temperature.
- If phoning to report any symptoms (even if they do not think it is related to an infection) patients should check their temperature
- Ensure they understand that they should report symptoms of infection even if they have not got an elevated temperature
- Show the card to any healthcare professional who they consult because they are unwell.
- Advise the patient that wherever possible they should phone themselves rather than a friend or relative to enable a better assessment of any symptoms
- Explain that as a result of calling they may be given advice over the phone, directed to the GP for assessment or asked to attend hospital for an urgent assessment and blood tests.
- They should talk to family members and friends to make contingency plans for providing transport to hospital and care for any dependents if needed at short notice
- Refer to their information leaflets / booklets for full details of their treatment, expected side effects and guidance for managing expected side effects.