
ASSESSMENT OF SUITABILITY FOR AMBULATORY CARE BMT AT BHOC

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Clinical Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

ASSESSMENT OF SUITABILITY FOR AMBULATORY CARE BMT AT BHOC

SETTING	Stem Cell Transplant and Cellular Therapy Programme, Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre
FOR STAFF	Clinical staff working in Stem Cell Transplant and Cellular Therapy
PATIENTS	Patients receiving autologous stem cell transplant or CAR-T Cell therapy at BHOC

1. Indications for Practice

Autologous transplants (such as Melphalan-conditioned Autologous BMT and CAR T cell transplants) were previously delivered as an elective inpatient admission treatment; patients would make scheduled day attendances to the hospital to receive all or part of the chemotherapy regime / supportive medications.

The Ambulatory Care (AC) BMT service primarily supports the administration of chemotherapy conditioning, administration of blood components and the need for blood tests and other investigations in the preparation phase and once treatment commences. This enables patients to receive their care in a timely fashion, receiving full access to specialist medical and nursing staff and pharmacy services, without staying in an inpatient environment.

The following SOP details the inclusion and exclusion criteria when referring patients to the AC BMT Service.

2. Authorised Personnel / Training Required

Bone Marrow Transplant Consultants, Associate Specialists, Fellows and Advanced Care Practitioners (ACP) can assess a patient for suitability for ambulatory care BMT.

3. Procedure

3.1 Assessment of Suitability for Ambulatory Care

Prior to initiating a patient on ambulatory chemotherapy, appropriate assessment of patient's suitability must be undertaken by the patient's referring consultant and/or ACP to ensure they are a safe candidate for administration of ambulatory chemotherapy conditioning and stem cell infusion.

On assessment, prior to commencing treatment in AC, the patient will sign an agreement of eligibility and self-care alongside the assessing nurse- a copy of which should remain in other

patient's notes and one for the patient to take.

If a patient is assessed as suitable for ambulatory BMT and agrees to ambulatory BMT, the consent form will list the treatment as 'Ambulatory'.

The exclusion and inclusion referral criteria listed below should be used alongside other individual protocol-specific requirements (or relating standard operating procedure) to establish patient eligibility for AC treatment. (For example, see also [SOP 4.11 High Dose Melphalan With Autologous Stem Cell Rescue In The Outpatient Setting](#)).

Any patient deemed to fulfil the referral criteria may have access to the service.

3.2 Referral Inclusion Criteria

- Patient has consented to ambulatory care and is aware of self-care requirements such as personal hygiene, nutrition, hydration during the transplant process.
- Patients undergoing Melphalan conditioned autografts or CAR T cell transplants
- ECOG score of 0-1.
- Full time carer available (specific to treatments)
- Patient/carers must be able to administer medications (oral)
- Patient/carers must be able to take and record temperature on a digital thermometer.
- Patient has Central Venous Access and is able to undertake basic care of line
- Patient and carer must be educated regarding nutrition, risk of infection and daily management during the treatment phase in ACA
- Patient and carer must have a clear understanding of the process to follow if the patient becomes unwell or if there is an emergency situation
- Patient and carer must understand spoken and written English
- Patient must live within one hour's driving distance from the hospital (inclusion zone.)
- Patient must be able to get to appointments, without use of public transport and if they become unwell whilst at home (if this is an appropriate form of transport in an emergency).
- Patient/carers must have access to a telephone 24 hours a day

The presence of pet animals/ small children in the home should be established - where this is the case counselling on heightened awareness of keeping animals at a distance from the patient for the duration of treatment must be mentioned.

All cytotoxic medication or contaminated equipment must be stored away from access to/risk of contact with women of childbearing potential, children, and pets.

3.3 Referral Exclusion Criteria

- Patients with an ECOG score >2
- Patients with co-morbidities that will require medical monitoring or interventions during transplant (i.e.: dialysis, unstable diabetes)
- Patients who live more than an hour's driving time (outside the inclusion zone) from BHOC.
- Housing unsuitable
- No carer available
- No transport available
- Prior history of poor compliance with treatment/appointments
- Patients with CNS disease resulting in confusion and risk of cognitive impairment
- Patients deemed unable to participate due to lack of capacity
- History of drug abuse
- Patients at risk of self-harm
- Psychiatric illness, suicidal tendencies
- Physical disabilities which may prevent self-management of the treatment regimen (unless a carer is deemed able)

3.4 Patient Education

- Patients must be educated regarding self-monitoring whilst an outpatient, ideally with their nominated family member or friend present
- Education is the responsibility of the nominated Consultant.
- Verbal information must be accompanied by written information including the BHOC patient leaflet: Ambulatory care for patients at BHOC undergoing bone marrow transplant.
- Patient must ensure access to an accurate thermometer (electronic preferred)
- Patients must be given the telephone number for the 24 hour Haematology advice line and have explained how the service works
- Patients must be told to contact the acute oncology service if unwell, if they have a fever >38C, or any symptoms of bleeding.

- Patients must be told to avoid taking paracetamol, NSAIDs or any anti-platelet drugs
- Patients must understand that readmission is common and prompt treatment of infections (IV antibiotics within 1 hour of fever) is essential

REFERENCES	NICE Guidance NG 47 Haematological Cancers: Improving Outcomes
RELATED DOCUMENTS AND PAGES	Autologous Pathway SOP 4.11 High Dose Melphalan With Autologous Stem Cell Rescue In The Outpatient Setting
AUTHORISING BODY	Adult BMT IEC Quality Group
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