What is the Macmillan Virtual Multi-Disciplinary Team (vMDT)?
It’s an online tool that allows a healthcare professional to seek expert advice to help people who have ongoing symptoms as a result of their cancer treatment and aims to address these problems. With your permission a healthcare professional can seek advice from the vMDT, a team of UK medical experts who specialise in problems related to the long-term side effects of cancer treatment. These experienced professionals can provide online advice to your healthcare professional.

Why are you being referred to the vMDT?
Due to your ongoing symptoms as a result of your cancer and its treatment the vMDT may have been recommended to you by a healthcare professional. The vMDT will accept referrals for anyone experiencing complex or severe ongoing symptoms due to their cancer or its treatment. These ongoing problems can be as a result of any cancer type or treatment type, however long ago active treatment ended. The vMDT is not suitable for people experiencing emergency problems or who need a quick response.

What happens when you are referred to the vMDT?
Your healthcare professional will provide the vMDT with information about your cancer and its treatment. You can’t be identified by this information – your details are kept anonymous. The healthcare professional making the referral will ask the vMDT for advice from a team of relevant professionals. For example, if you have potential heart problems, they will ask for cardiology expert opinion.

It would be helpful if you described in your own words the most important things to you about your ongoing symptoms. This can include your thoughts, feelings and emotions. It can include both physical and psychological symptoms. There is space for you to do so, and further information, within this leaflet.

The vMDT aims to respond as quickly as possible (within 2–4 weeks) after receiving the referral information. If you have any questions about your referral please speak to your healthcare professional.

Your healthcare professional will remain responsible for your care throughout the vMDT referral. The vMDT’s role is to provide advice only.

What happens if you prefer not to be referred to the vMDT?
Your healthcare professional will follow your current treatment plan with the usual care.
What happens after the vMDT responds with their advice?
Your healthcare professional will discuss the advice given by the vMDT with you and together you can make a plan for your ongoing care.

Possible next steps could include:
• The vMDT suggests further tests need to be done and these will be completed by your healthcare professional.
• A referral to see other healthcare professionals with the relevant expertise.
• The care provided by your current team will continue as before.

Please note – How quickly things progress will depend on your local NHS waiting times or other time dependent factors.

The Macmillan vMDT Referral Process

Your healthcare professional identifies you as someone who would benefit from the Macmillan vMDT.

Your healthcare professional will ask your permission to refer you to the Macmillan vMDT.

Your healthcare professional will print and provide you with this information leaflet.

You must tick to say you agree to the referral to the Macmillan vMDT. If you wish you can also provide a personal statement.

Your healthcare professional will make an online referral to the Macmillan vMDT.

In 2–4 weeks your healthcare professional will receive the vMDT’s advice.

Together you will talk about the advice from the Macmillan vMDT and the next steps for your care.

The Macmillan virtual MDT is a pilot project and we will be evaluating its success. At 3–6 months after you have received advice from the Macmillan vMDT we will be contacting you via your referring healthcare professional with a short evaluation questionnaire about your experience. We would greatly appreciate a few moments of your time completing this, your views, experiences and comments will be influential in the legacy of the Macmillan VMDT.

How your information is kept safe
• All information sent to the vMDT is completely anonymous.
• The information held in the vMDT system is entirely within the NHS secure network used for all NHS communications.
• Only registered UK health professionals will be able to use the vMDT.
• Although collated information about the vMDT system may be used for research, individual level information will not. The aim of this research will be to improve experiences and outcomes for other patients in the future, or to educate healthcare professionals.

Disclaimer: The Macmillan vMDT system is funded by Macmillan Cancer Support. Macmillan Cancer Support cannot guarantee that the system will be available for all people referred to it. The Macmillan vMDT may not be able to offer advice on all referrals or guarantee a solution for all referrals to the Macmillan vMDT. The system provides advice for healthcare professionals regarding the needs of their patients.

For more information, please see macmillan.org.uk/vmdt

This information was produced and verified in September 2016.
This sheet will not be sent to the Macmillan vMDT but will be retained in your hospital/GP records.

☐ I agree to my case being referred to the Macmillan virtual Multi-Disciplinary Team (vMDT) and for my anonymised case summary to be available to UK-registered healthcare professionals for educational purposes

________________________ date

Patient summary

Your symptoms in your own words
Please describe in your own words the impact your symptoms have on your life. This will help the vMDT healthcare professionals understand your thoughts, feelings and emotions. They will then identify the best ways to help you and your healthcare team manage your specific problems.

In your statement, it would be useful for you to answer ‘If one thing could make the biggest difference to your life at the moment, what would it be?’

Other things to consider including, could be:
• How your ongoing symptoms impact on your daily life (for example do you have toilet urgency, sexual difficulties, are you depressed, have family worries or financial problems.)
• If you have any problem(s) that are worse than others.
• Any current or future worries and concerns.
• Medical options you and/or healthcare professionals have tried before.
• Any other information you think will help the vMDT with their advice.

Once you have written your statement (either electronically or by hand), send it back to the healthcare professional who is making the referral for you. They will attach it to your online vMDT referral and retain a copy for your hospital/GP records. You may wish to make a copy for your own records.

If possible, please keep your statement to a maximum of 500 words (approximately two sides of A4). If you would like support when writing your statement it might be helpful to talk through the key things you want to include with your GP or clinical nurse specialist (CNS). If available locally, you can ask for help from a Macmillan Information and Support Service. You can find your local service by visiting macmillan.org.uk/inyourarea or by calling the Macmillan Support Line on 0808 808 00 00.
Please provide your information here:
You can write your statement either electronically or by hand, once completed please send it back to your healthcare professional. This may be by post or email.

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Copy in patient records and send copy to vMDT