PRIMARY CARE REFERRAL PATHWAYS FOR PATIENTS WITH THYROID DISEASE

Introduction

The Cancer Network requires that a structured and clear referral pathway for patients with a potential diagnosis of thyroid cancer should be formulated and, once agreed amongst relevant stakeholders, be adopted throughout the network.

Professions involved

Many differing groups of clinicians are involved in the care of patients with thyroid diseases. Each hospital will have its own configuration of team members within the thyroid team and this may include any combination of Medical Endocrinologists, Ear Nose & Throat Surgeons, Endocrine Surgeons, Clinical or Medical Oncologists, Radiologists, Pathologists and Cytologists. Primary care colleagues should refer thyroid patients to the thyroid service at the preferred local hospital. Secondary care should organise the service such that patients are appropriately streamed to medical or surgical colleagues as indicated by the symptoms on the referral proforma.

Service Configuration

Patients with benign thyroid disease are managed by the appropriate members of the thyroid service in each hospital. Patients with malignant thyroid disease should be under the care of core members of the Thyroid Cancer MDT, either from the point of referral (HSC205 referral) or once the diagnosis of thyroid cancer is suspected or established (radiologically, cytologically or histologically). Such patients will have their resections performed by a core member of the MDT. All patients with an established diagnosis of thyroid malignancy should be discussed pre and postoperatively at the regional thyroid cancer MDT. Patients with confirmed thyroid malignancy requiring further surgery (completion thyroidectomy or lateral neck dissection) will have this performed by a core member of the MDT. Patients can be referred across trusts to maintain services within the core group of designated surgeons in times of absence.

The Thyroid Cancer MDT

The Greater Manchester & Cheshire Thyroid Cancer MDT is hosted by Christie Hospital. It is held every alternate week on Thursdays between 4.30 and 6pm and is chaired by Dr Yap, Consultant Oncologist.
Core members of the MDT (listed in the table below) are required to attend a minimum of 66% of MDT meetings per annum either in person or via video-link. Thyroid cancer cases are discussed preoperatively to ascertain the appropriate surgical treatment and following surgery to discuss completion surgery or adjuvant therapy.

**Clinical sub-group**

The thyroid cancer MDT is part of the Head & Neck Subgroup of the Greater Manchester & Cheshire Cancer Network. As such it reports to the Chair of the Subgroup and has representation at its quarterly meetings.
Primary Care Referral Pathway for Patients with Thyroid Symptoms

Thyroid Dysfunction

- TFT

  i.e. thyrotoxic or hypothyroid

  Consider Refer to Medical Endocrinology or manage locally

  If a patient has hyper/hypothyroidism AND thyroid growth, in the absence of stridor, refer to Medical Endocrinology team

Thyroid Growth

- Stridor +/- other symptoms of tracheal compression

  Immediate (same day) referral to designated thyroid surgeon

- no stridor

  solitary thyroid nodule

  multinodular goitre

  “Red Flag” symptoms

  - solitary nodule increasing in size
  - history of neck irradiation
  - family history of thyroid cancer
  - patient over 65
  - unexplained hoarseness / voice change associated with a goitre
  - associated cervical lymphadenopathy

  Yes

  Fast Track (HSC205) referral to designated thyroid surgeon

  No

  Routine referral to designated thyroid surgeon

Thyroid ultrasound scanning in primary care is not indicated prior to patient referral to secondary care
# Designated Thyroid Surgeon List

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th>Name of Trust</th>
<th>Designated Thyroid Surgeons</th>
<th>Referral Contact Point</th>
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</table>
| Manchester Royal Infirmary      | †Central Manchester Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust | Mr J Homer ENT Surgeon*  
Mr S Loughran ENT Surgeon*  
Mr N Parrot Transplant & Endocrine Surgeon* | RBMS  
Fax: 0161 276 8756  
Email: cmm-tr.cancer-referrals-cmft@nhs.net |
| Macclesfield Hospital           | East Cheshire NHS Trust                            | Mr M Khan ENT Surgeon                                           | Via Choose and Book or  
Fax: 01625 661 027 |
| Leighton Hospital               | Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust        | Miss A Dingle ENT Surgeon ‡                                      | Via Choose and Book or via electronic referral to  
urgent.cancer@mcht.nhs.uk or fax: 01270 612 545 |
| North Manchester General Hospital | †Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust                  | Mr P Murthy ENT Surgeon*                                          | Manchester Integrated Care Gateway  
Tel: 0161 443 0631   
Fax: 0161 443 0632 |
| Oldham Royal Hospital           | †Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust                  | Refer to North Manchester Gen Hospital or  
Fairfield General Hospital  
Mr I Shepherd ENT Surgeon* | Bury RBMS  
Tel: 0161 762 3155   
Fax: 0161 762 3078  
Oldham Referral Information Centre  
Tel: 0161 627 7490   
Fax: 0161 785 0421  
Heywood and Middleton RBMS  
Tel: 0161 655 1544   
Fax: 0161 655 1592 |
| Rochdale Infirmary              | Royal Bolton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust         | Refer to North Manchester Gen Hospital or  
Fairfield General Hospital  
Mr I Shepherd ENT Surgeon* | TAC  
Tel: 01204 390400   
Fax: 01204 390463 |
| Royal Bolton Hospital           | Royal Bolton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust         | Mr S Hargreaves ENT Surgeon*  
Mr N Umapathy ENT Surgeon* | Royal Bolton Hospital  
NHS Foundation Trust  
Fax: 01204 390463 |
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</table>
| Salford Royal Hospital        | Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust       | Miss H Doran Endocrine Surgeon*  
Mr I Anderson Colorectal & Endocrine Surgeon | Email: [outpatientscallcentre@srft.nhs.uk](mailto:outpatientscallcentre@srft.nhs.uk)  
Tel: 0161 206 4100  Fax: 0161 206 1048  
Or via Choose & Book Mr Anderson Sec:  
Tel: 0161 206 5129  Fax: 0161 206 1393  
Or via Choose & Book Miss Doran Sec:  
Tel: 0161 206 5916  Fax: 0161 206 1393 |
| Stepping Hill Hospital        | Stockport NHS Foundation Trust                     | Miss L Ramamurthy ENT Surgeon*                                                            | Call Centre:  
Tel: 0161 419 5901  Fax: 0161 419 5599                     |
| Tameside General Hospital     | Tameside Hospital NHS Foundation Trust             | Mr S Ellenbogen Breast & Endocrine Surgeon  
Ms Susannah Penney (Locum) Consultant Head and Neck Surgeon/Otolaryngologist | Central Referrals Office  
Tel: 0161 331 6334  Fax: 0161 331 6339                     |
| Trafford General Hospital     | Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust                      | Mr Al-Dabbagh, General & Endocrine Surgeon                                                | Central Booking Office  
Tel: 0161 934 8601  Fax: 0161 746 2040                     |
| Wythenshawe Hospital          | ‡University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust | Mr A Gandhi Endocrine & Breast Surgeon*                                                    | Email: [smu-tr.callcentre@nhs.net](mailto:smu-tr.callcentre@nhs.net)  
Fax: 291-5126 (non-urgent) 291-5127 (HSC205)                 |
| Royal Albert Edward Infirmary | Wrightington, Wigan & Leigh NHS Foundation Trust   | Mr N Kumar ENT Surgeon  
Mr V Pothula ENT Surgeon | RBMS  
Tel: 01942 773017  Email: [wwl-tr.2wwreferrals@nhs.net](mailto:wwl-tr.2wwreferrals@nhs.net) |

*indicates core membership of the Thyroid Cancer MDT  
‡Miss Dingle refers to Mersey Thyroid Cancer MDT where she is a core member  
† indicates the three Trusts undertaking lateral neck dissection for thyroid cancer