

# Multidisciplinary Cancer Care Information Sheet

## What is a multidisciplinary team?

Within the Grampians Region there are teams of health professionals involved in the care of patients with cancer. Each team is specific to the type of cancer the individual has. Each member of the team brings different skills that are important in managing your care. The team includes health professionals who are involved in diagnosing your cancer, treating your cancer, managing symptoms and side effects and assisting you with your feelings or concerns during your cancer experience.

To make sure you are receiving the best possible care, your cancer specialist and other health professionals whom your specialist has invited will meet to review your case and decide on the most appropriate treatments for you. The team will discuss several other patients at the same meeting and there may be some people at the meeting who are not involved in your case (e.g. Integrated Cancer Service staff that organise the meeting). There may also be medical students present at the meeting as part of their education along with other invited health professionals.

## What happens at a multidisciplinary meeting?

During the meeting the team will review your medical history and your test results. Personal or other health information that you have disclosed to any member of the team, including your general practitioner, may be shared at the meeting if relevant to your treatment, unless you request otherwise. All meeting attendees are bound by the same confidentiality as would be the case in face-to-face consultation with you.

## What happens after the meeting?

After the meeting, the person managing your care will tell you what course of action the team recommends. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and indicate any preferences you have for treatment. The final decision about your care plan is made in consultation with you.

Furthermore, as part of the commitment to improve the quality of care, this practice/ hospital audits and reviews the treatments and outcomes of patient care. This usually involves all components of care for a particular disease, including that delivered by other practitioners and institutions.

## What if I have a question?

If you have any questions about your team, or about the meeting at which your case will be discussed, please feel free to discuss this with the person who is managing your care.

If you do not wish your care to be audited or discussed at a multidisciplinary meeting please advise your treating doctor.