How do I contact the Macmillan Speech and Language Therapist?

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

East Sussex
Macmillan Speech and Language Therapy Service

The Macmillan Speech and Language Therapy Service provides an assessment, advice, support and rehabilitation service to people who have speech, language, communication or swallowing problems because of cancer. These are usually, but not exclusively, people with head and neck cancers.

The Macmillan Speech and Language Therapist works closely with other members of the cancer team including consultants, oncologists, clinical nurse specialists, dietitians, radiographers etc.

What is a Macmillan Speech and Language Therapist?

A Macmillan Speech and Language Therapist (MacSaLT) is an experienced speech and language therapist, who has undergone specialist training in cancer care. The MacSaLT is qualified to deal with most speech, voice, language, communication and swallowing problems which may result from cancer or cancer treatments.

Is a Macmillan Speech Therapist a Macmillan Nurse?

A MacSaLT is a specialist Speech and Language Therapist, who has a degree in Speech and Language Therapy. This is not a nursing qualification. A MacSaLT is not qualified to give injections, prescribe medicines or make a medical diagnosis.

Patient Information

What does a Macmillan Speech and Language Therapist do?

A MacSALT is expert in assessing and treating communication and swallowing difficulties including:
Dysarthria – difficulty speaking clearly; slurring words etc
Dysphasia – difficulty thinking of words to say and write, or difficulty understanding what is said or written; words or spelling muddled
Dysphonia – difficulty producing voice; hoarse or whispery voice
Dysphagia – difficulty with eating and drinking; frequent coughing and choking, inability to manage hard foods etc

The MacSaLT is able to arrange and carry out special investigations to help your doctor make the proper diagnosis and give you the proper treatments.

If you have had your voice-box removed (laryngectomy) the MacSaLT is able to change your speaking valves etc when required as well as advise you how best to communicate.

I don't have any problems talking, why do I need to see a Macmillan Speech and Language Therapist ?

You may have difficulty eating and drinking, or your voice may be hoarse. A Speech and Language Therapist is the best person to help with these problems.

Do I have to go to a hospital to see the Macmillan Speech and Language Therapist?

No, the MacSaLT is able to offer home visits as well as inpatient, outpatient, hospice and care home visits.

Do I have to pay to see a Macmillan Speech and Language Therapist?

No, the service is hosted by Hastings and Rother PCT, but funded by all the local PCTs, to provide a service across East Sussex as part of the NHS.

Will the Macmillan Speech and Language Therapist help me with my financial problems?

The MacSaLT is not qualified to advise you regarding benefit claims and debts etc, but can put you in touch with a trained advisor through Macmillan or local advice services.

I don't want anyone to know I am seeing the Macmillan Speech and Language Therapist

All healthcare services are confidential. Information is only shared on a need-to-know basis, and only with your consent. The MacSaLT will always ask for your permission to discuss your case with someone else, whether it is your partner, GP, another healthcare worker or social services. Any home visit will be carried out discreetly with no visible badges etc

I don't want to see the Macmillan Speech and Language Therapist but my partner would like some advice about how best to help me

Patient Information

The service is for people with cancer and their carers. People living with someone with cancer often have concerns and worries about how best to help. Your partner is able to contact the MacSaLT directly without involving you if this is what you wish.

How do I get to see a Macmillan Speech and Language Therapist?

There is an open referral system. You can be referred by your doctor or any other healthcare professional working with you; your partner /carer can refer you and you can even refer yourself! The only criterion is that your speech, communication, voice or swallowing problems are because of your cancer or your cancer treatments. The MacSaLT will only see you with your consent so it is best if you know that someone has referred you.

How do I contact the Macmillan Speech and Language Therapist?

Karen McInally BSc MSc MRCSLT is based at Conquest Hospital, The Ridge, St Leonards-on-sea, but also visits Eastbourne DGH regularly. You can leave a message on:

Conquest Hospital – Tel: (01424) 755470 Ext: 8639
Eastbourne DGH – Tel: (01323) 417400 Ext: 4072
or
MacSaLT Mobile 07769 742473

Important information

The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is not provided to replace professional clinical advice from a qualified practitioner.

Your comments

We are always interested to hear your views about our leaflets. If you have any comments please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) – details below.

Hand hygiene

The trust is committed to maintaining a clean, safe environment. Hand hygiene is very important in controlling infection. Alcohol gel is widely available at the patient bedside for staff use and at the entrance of each clinical area for visitors to clean their hands before and after entering.

Other formats

This information is available in alternative formats such as large print or electronically on request. Interpreters can also be booked. Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) offices, found in the main reception areas:

Conquest Hospital

Email: **palsh@esht.nhs.uk** - Telephone: **01424 758090**

Eastbourne District General Hospital

Email: **palse@esht.nhs.uk** - Telephone: **01323 435886**

Patient Information

After reading this information are there any questions you would like to ask? Please list below and ask your nurse or doctor.

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Reference

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