



## Before your treatment

- > Before you commence treatment you will meet with either a cancer care coordinator or a chemotherapy nurse who will provide you with information regarding your treatment.
- > You will be invited to the chemotherapy unit for an orientation visit.
- > During the visit you will have the opportunity to look around and ask questions.



## During your treatment

- > When you arrive at the unit you will have a one-on-one consultation with a chemotherapy nurse who will conduct a pre-chemotherapy assessment.
- > If there are any concerns the nurse will contact your oncologist or haematologist for further advice.
- > The chemotherapy nurse will administer your treatment and any other supportive medications.
- > A family member or carer can sit with you during your treatment.



## After your treatment

- > The chemotherapy nurse will ensure you have all appropriate take home medication, follow-up appointments and emergency contact details before you leave the unit.

Former South Coast District  
Hospital patient Helen (right),  
with Associate Nursing Unit  
Manager Belinda Pederick (left)



*Country cancer services are supported by funding from the Government of South Australia and the Australian Government.*

For more information

**For more information, or to find out how to access country cancer services near you, go to [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/countrycancerservices](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/countrycancerservices)**

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# Country Cancer Services



*The chemotherapy unit at the Whyalla Regional Cancer Centre*

## Cancer services in country South Australia

There are chemotherapy units in a range of country hospitals across the state, with staff trained and accredited to provide chemotherapy treatment and other services for cancer patients.

Each unit has between one and six chemotherapy chairs, and are equipped with videoconference facilities so that some medical appointments may be held with specialists based in Adelaide.

The services available at country chemotherapy units are being expanded so that more country cancer patients can receive treatment and care closer to home.

Additional staff are being employed to support the operation of the chemotherapy units, including more medical oncologists, clinical pharmacists, cancer care coordinator nurses and administration staff.

Chemotherapy units in SA Health are classified as low, medium or high complexity based on the services available at that site.

Up until recently, the chemotherapy units at Whyalla, Mount Gambier and Port Pirie have been the only country sites classified to administer medium and low complexity chemotherapy, while those at Ceduna, Clare, Gawler, Kangaroo Island, Mount Barker, Murray Bridge, Naracoorte, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Riverland, Victor Harbor and Wallaroo have been classified to administer low complexity chemotherapy only.

The number of medium complexity country chemotherapy units are being doubled, from three to six, by transitioning the units in the South Coast District Hospital in Victor Harbor, the Riverland General Hospital in Berri, and the Port Lincoln Hospital to medium complexity units.

Other country hospitals that don't have chemotherapy units can provide supportive care to cancer patients such as pump disconnection and dressings.

## Helen's story

Helen (pictured on the cover) is one of the people who have already benefited by being able to receive medium complexity chemotherapy treatment at the South Coast District Hospital.

"Having that little bit of control back in the home, and making sure that my son could still keep his routine, helped the whole household, and that kept him happy, which kept me less stressed," Helen said.

"We wouldn't have been able to do that if I had to go to Flinders Medical Centre for treatment.

"The staff here have been wonderful. They make you feel like you're the only one – even if all the chairs are full, you're the only one they're helping at that moment."

Expanding country cancer services will ensure that more people like Helen receive treatment and care closer to home.

## Can I receive my cancer treatment in a country chemotherapy unit?

Like Helen, you may be able to receive all or part of your cancer treatment in a country chemotherapy unit.

A number of country chemotherapy units have an on-site visiting medical oncologist, or have access to a visiting medical oncologist at a site nearby, providing high-quality specialist cancer services.

If you would like to consider this option, please speak with your GP or current specialist about the possibility of being referred to a country medical oncologist.