

# MSCC ALERT CARD

You have been given this card because you have cancer and are at risk of malignant spinal cord compression (MSCC).

**You should contact your hospital immediately if you develop any of these symptoms:**

- back or neck pain that becomes severe
- pain that feels like a band around the chest or tummy (abdomen), or that spreads into your lower back, buttocks or legs
- pain in the spine that gets worse when you move, lift something heavy, cough or sneeze
- pain that keeps you awake at night
- numbness, a burning feeling or pins and needles in the toes, fingers or over the buttocks
- feeling unsteady on your feet, having difficulty walking, weakness or your legs giving way
- problems controlling your bladder (incontinence) or passing little or no urine
- problems controlling your bowels (incontinence) or increasing constipation.



**Do not wait for further symptoms to develop.**

**The earlier you seek treatment, the more effective it is likely to be.**

Hospital contact telephone number:

If you develop any of these symptoms, get medical advice immediately.

Contact someone **today**, even if it is the weekend or a holiday.

You should contact the hospital team where you usually go for cancer treatment and follow-up appointments.

If you are unable to get in touch with anyone, go to the nearest Emergency Department (A&E) or contact your GP.

### **When you speak to a health professional:**

- describe your symptoms
- tell them you have cancer and are worried you may have spinal cord compression
- tell them that you need to be seen straight away
- show them this card.

### **Information for doctors or health professionals:**

- this patient is at risk of MSCC
- they should be nursed as an unstable spinal patient
- if you suspect MSCC, please arrange an urgent whole spine MRI (or CT if an MRI is contraindicated)
- contact your local acute oncology service or MSCC co-ordinator for advice.

**Early diagnosis and treatment are essential.**



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CANCER SUPPORT**