

FRONT OF CARD

Name:
DOB/CHI:
Consultant:



Health board: **NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde**

Sometimes when people have cancer it can cause the nerves in the spine to be squeezed. This is quite rare. It is very important to pick it up quickly as the earlier treatments are started, the better the result usually is.

Symptoms to watch out for:

- Back pain in one bit of your back that is severe, distressing or different from your usual pain.
- Pain that is like a band squeezing your chest.
- A new feeling of weakness of the legs or difficulty walking.
- Numbness or pins and needles in your toes, fingers or over buttocks
- Problems passing urine or controlling your bowels.

PLEASE TURN OVER

BACK OF CARD

If you have any of the symptoms on the front of this card:

- Speak with a doctor, nurse or paramedic as soon as is practical (within 24 hours).
- Tell them that you have cancer, are worried about your spine and would like to see a doctor.
- Show the doctor this card.
- Try to bend your back as little as possible.

For Doctor / Health Care Professional

- This patient has metastatic cancer and is therefore at risk of malignant spinal cord compression (MSCC).
- If they have any of the symptoms on the front of this card then please consider MSCC as a possible diagnosis and discuss further management with the On-call Registrar at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre by phoning switchboard on 0141 301 7000 and asking them to page the On-call Registrar.
- If after discussion MSCC remains a possibility please
 - Give them Dexamethasone 8mg twice daily (unless contraindicated).
 - Advise them to lie flat as much as is practical until seen at hospital.

These cards are being given out to all patients who have lung, breast or prostate cancer with bone metastases, and any other patient that a clinician identifies as being at high risk of MSCC and would benefit from prophylactic information.