

Oncology Care Unit



Patients with cancer who require additional care (anticipated < 24 hours) after an emergency department evaluation but who do not require inpatient admission may be candidates for the Oncology Care Unit (OCU).

For additional questions, please call Ruttenberg Treatment Center Leadership.

Oncology Triage Clinic Guidelines

Included below are details regarding in-scope symptoms, clinical team, and services available:

OCU Referral	<p>To refer patients to OCU for evaluation and treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Referral MUST be made by primary oncology team to OCU nurse practitioner.• Referrals can also be made by hematology fellows and ED providers after conferring with the primary or covering oncologist/OCU NP.• Communicate with OCU NP via cell phone 646-532-9182, also listed in Amion under “MSH: Oncology Care Unit (OCU)”, or email # Oncology Care Unit with patient information. <p>The referring team must speak to the OCU nurse practitioner to determine that OCU care is appropriate prior to the patient’s arrival on site.</p>	
Patient Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Duration of total care < 24 hours• NOT requiring work-up beyond the scope of OCU (eg. imaging, consult)• Clinically stable<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HR<115, RR< 30, SBP >90 or <200• NOT requiring non-invasive pressure ventilation (such as venti mask, NRB)• Febrile neutropenia (T<38 and ANC >1000) with stable vital sign	
Symptom Management in the OCU	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anemia• Post-treatment clinical monitoring• Dehydration• Infection (including neutropenic fever, UTI, pneumonia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nausea / vomiting / diarrhea• Pain management• Phlebotomy• Thrombocytopenia
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Antibiotics• IV hydration• Labs• Pain Management <p>Patients in need of additional evaluation and treatment will either be transferred to the Emergency Department or admitted to the hospital.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transfusion• Transplant Support• Supportive care while awaiting inpatient admission.
Clinical Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The clinic will be managed by an experienced oncology APP and RN team.• The referring oncology team will be contacted as needed for treatment decisions.	

Logistics

OCU Location and Hours of Operation	<p>OCU is open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day:</p> <p><u>Monday–Friday, 7:30 am–7:30 pm:</u></p> <p>Guggenheim Pavilion, 2nd Floor 1468 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10029 (at 100th Street)</p> <p><u>All other times during the week, weekends and holidays:</u></p> <p>Ruttenberg Treatment Center, 4th Floor 1470 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10029 (between 101st–102nd Streets)</p>
The OCU is NOT...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A walk-in clinic • For patients requiring telemetry monitoring • Suitable for the following symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspected fracture • Suspected anaphylaxis • Acute mental status change/neurologic symptoms • Unstable vital signs • Chest pains

Frequently Asked Questions

1. May all patients be referred to the OCU?

Yes, all hematology-oncology patients cared by full-time Mount Sinai Health System hematology and oncology faculty may be referred to the OCU.

2. If a patient needs to be seen in clinic the same day, can he/she be referred to the OCU for additional assessment and treatment?

Yes, patients can be seen in the OCU clinic the same day.

3. Can a patient in the Emergency Department be monitored in the OCU while waiting to be admitted?

No. Patients who need care in the ED are not suitable for the OCU.

4. What if a patient is experiencing symptoms not currently on the list of in-scope symptoms?

The oncology team may contact the OCU advanced provider to determine whether symptoms can be managed in the OCU.

5. What if a patient arrives at the OCU and needs additional evaluation and treatment beyond the current scope of practice?

They will be transferred to the ED or directly admitted to the hospital per admission guidelines.

6. What if the OCU does not have the capacity to accommodate an additional patient?

The patient should be referred to the ED if urgent evaluation is needed. If the patient is able to wait, the OCU team will alert the

7. Will patients receive instructions for follow-up?

Yes. Patients will be provided with a summary of care received in the OCU and instructions on how to reach their primary oncology team for follow-up.