King's College Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust

Metastatic Spinal Cord Compression (MSCC) service

Information for referrers

What does the MSCC service do?

We ensure that patients who present signs and symptoms of MSCC get the tests and treatment they need as soon as possible. This reduces their risk of permanent disability, loss of function and ultimately poor performance status and quality of life.

We provide a specialist advisory service 24 hours a day, seven days a week for clinicians and MSCC co-ordinators in secondary care.

Who does the MSCC service treat?

We treat patients with either a prior diagnosis of cancer or unknown primary cancer with symptoms suggestive of spinal metastases/MSCC.

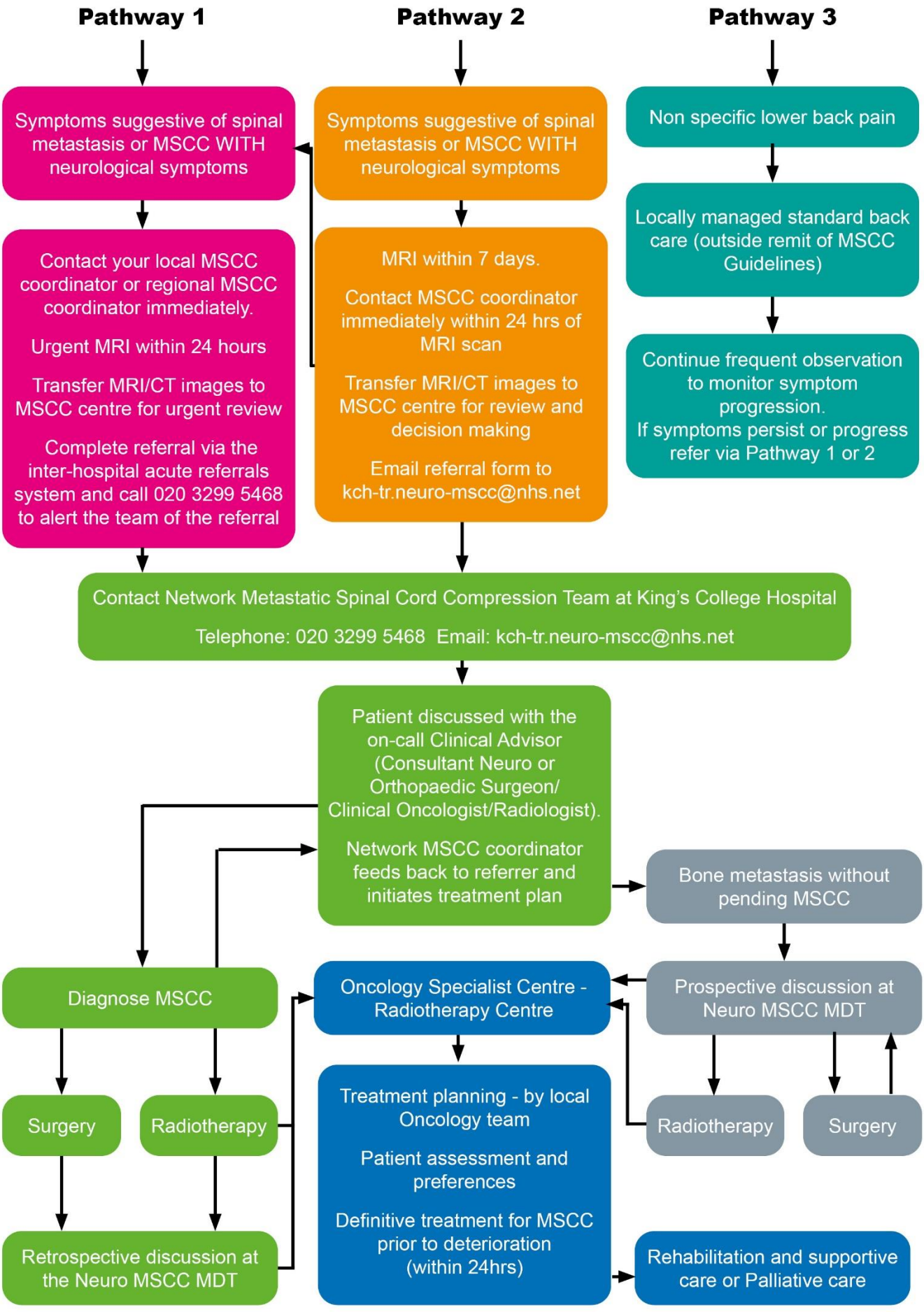
We do not treat:

- adults with spinal cord compression caused by primary tumours of the spinal cord and meninges
- adults with spinal cord compression due to non-malignant causes
- adults with nerve root tumours compressing the spinal cord
- children

Suspected MSCC

Patient with prior diagnosis of cancer or unknown primary with symptoms suggestive of spinal metastases/MSCC:

- severe intractable progressive pain - especially in thoracic region
- new spinal nerve root pain (burning, shooting, causing numbness)
- altered sensation and/or reduced power in limbs
- bladder and/or bowel disturbance (i.e. new onset of incontinence)


Pathway 1
Pathway 2
Pathway 3
Symptoms suggestive of spinal metastasis or MSCC WITH neurological symptoms
Symptoms suggestive of spinal metastasis or MSCC WITH neurological symptoms
Non specific lower back pain
Contact your local MSCC coordinator or regional MSCC coordinator immediately.
Urgent MRI within 24 hours
Transfer MRI/CT images to MSCC centre for urgent review
Complete referral via the inter-hospital acute referrals system and call 020 3299 5468 to alert the team of the referral
MRI within 7 days.
Contact MSCC coordinator immediately within 24 hrs of MRI scan
Transfer MRI/CT images to MSCC centre for review and decision making
Email referral form to kch-tr.neuro-mscc@nhs.net
Locally managed standard back care (outside remit of MSCC Guidelines)
Continue frequent observation to monitor symptom progression.
If symptoms persist or progress refer via Pathway 1 or 2
Contact Network Metastatic Spinal Cord Compression Team at King's College Hospital
Telephone: 020 3299 5468 Email: kch-tr.neuro-mscc@nhs.net
Patient discussed with the on-call Clinical Advisor (Consultant Neuro or Orthopaedic Surgeon/ Clinical Oncologist/Radiologist).
Network MSCC coordinator feeds back to referrer and initiates treatment plan
Bone metastasis without pending MSCC
Diagnose MSCC
Oncology Specialist Centre - Radiotherapy Centre
Prospective discussion at Neuro MSCC MDT
Surgery
Radiotherapy
Treatment planning - by local Oncology team
Patient assessment and preferences
Definitive treatment for MSCC prior to deterioration (within 24hrs)
Radiotherapy
Surgery
Retrospective discussion at the Neuro MSCC MDT
Rehabilitation and supportive care or Palliative care

How to contact us

Normal working hours – 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Please refer patients who have suspected MSCC to the MSCC service via the **MSCC Coordinator** on **020 3299 5468**. Cross cover is provided by the AOS CNS.

Out of Hours – 5pm to 9am, Monday to Friday; 24 hours a day over the weekend and bank holidays. Please refer patients via the **on-call Neurosurgical STR** on **020 3299 4207**.

If you cannot contact the register within one hour, make a direct consultant-to-consultant referral to the **on-call Neurosurgical consultant** via switchboard on **020 3299 9000**.

For more detailed information detailed information about our service, please refer to the South East London and Kent Standard Operating Procedure for the Management of Metastatic cord Compression (2024)

January 2024
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Networked Care
Corporate Comms: 0449