Supporting patients and families affected by MPN

Established by a group of MPN patients over 10 years ago, MPN Voice, registered under the auspices of Guy’s and St Thomas’ Charity, has a website with a lively online community and up to date information on essential thrombocythaemia (ET), polycythamia vera (PV), and myelofibrosis (MF).

Backed by leading healthcare professionals, MPN Voice also publishes a newsletter, MPN disease leaflets and drug leaflets, runs regular regional patient forums, funds MPN research and offers a buddy scheme.

For more information visit the website www.mpnvoice.org.uk
Email info@mpnvoice.org.uk
What is this leaflet about?

This leaflet is for people with myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs), also known as myeloproliferative disorders, (MPDs). It offers information about the medicines interferon alpha and peginterferon.

In this leaflet you will learn:

- How interferon alpha works
- The benefits and drawbacks of taking this medication
- How to take and store this medication
- Answers to frequently asked questions
- How to feel your best while taking interferon alpha

This leaflet provides information which can aid your decision about taking interferon and serves as a reference for people already taking the drug. In addition to reading this leaflet it is important that you read the information provided with your medicine.

This leaflet does not explain how to inject interferon alpha as this requires training by a medical professional. You should be taught how to do this by the nurse or doctor who prescribes interferon alpha for you.

If you need more information about MPNs in general please ask your local hospital or visit our website at www.mpnvoice.org.uk

What is interferon?

Interferons are substances which occur naturally in our bodies. These substances are commonly used in medication form to treat people who have viral conditions or cancer and are also used to treat myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs). Interferon is used to treat all three main types of myeloproliferative disorders: polycythaemia vera (PV), essential thrombocythaemia (ET) and myelofibrosis (MF). You can learn more about all the MPNs on our website at www.mpnvoice.org.uk

Interferon alpha and peginterferon are available as clear to light/pale yellow liquids and are given by injection just under the skin. Interferon alpha is usually given up to five times a week and peginterferon just once a week.
Types of interferon

Interferon is made by a variety of drug companies and is known under several brand names according to the manufacturer. The most common brand names for interferon are Roferon–A®, IntronA®, PEGASYS® and Pegintron®.

Roferon–A® and IntronA® are shorter acting interferons which are often given several times a week. PEGASYS® and Pegintron® are slower release longer acting formulations which are injected only once a week and sometimes less often. This less frequent injection may be an advantage with less side effects, but this has never been proved in any clinical studies.

Interferon alpha comes in a variety of packages and formulas. The most common are:

- **Single-dose syringe** A syringe containing the exact amount of drug required for one injection.

- **Multi-dose vial** A glass vial containing multiple doses of interferon liquid. You will be required to draw up a specific amount of fluid into a syringe and administer this dose to yourself.

- **Multi-dose injection pen** An injection pen containing a cartridge with multiple doses of interferon. The pen is set to inject the required dose each time.

- **Single dose pen** An injection pen containing a single dose of interferon at a set dose.

How interferon works

Interferon is a substance which occurs naturally, small amounts of this substance are found in our bodies. Our immune system produces interferon to help fight viruses, bacteria and tumours, and interferon also suppresses the production of blood cells.

Interferon alpha is a man-made copy of naturally occurring interferon. The drug increases interferon levels in your body, thus suppressing over-production of blood cells. Peginterferon works the same way but is a longer acting form of interferon alpha.
How can interferon treat my MPN?

Interferon alpha is currently recommended as the first choice therapy for younger people with MPNs and women with MPNs who are pregnant or trying to become pregnant. It is recommended as a second choice therapy for individuals who are unable to tolerate other drugs.

Interferon has been shown to:

- Control blood counts of platelets, red blood cells and white blood cells
- Reduce spleen size
- Reduce clotting events
- Reduce fibrosis in some people
- Reduce itching in some people

Are there any drawbacks?

As with all medications, you may experience side effects whilst taking interferon alpha. (This is discussed in more detail in the following section).

You will need frequent blood tests and monitoring whilst taking interferon alpha to ensure that the dose is correct for you.

Interferon alpha is only available in injection format and therefore is not suitable for individuals unable to self-inject or tolerate injections.

Are there any side effects?

Whilst interferon is an effective treatment for MPNs, this treatment does not suit everyone – some people may not tolerate the side effects they experience. Approximately twenty to thirty per cent of people who begin treatment with interferon eventually stop taking the drug, most often due to side effects. However many people report that the side effects they initially experience reduce over time, allowing them to tolerate treatment.

You will find a list of side effects in the table on the following pages. It is important that you inform your doctor or nurse if you are experiencing any of the side effects described, no matter how mild they may be. There are often ways of overcoming side effects or reducing them to a tolerable level.
Some side effects are more common than others. The frequencies shown in the table on the next pages correspond to the following percentages:

- **Very common** Approximately more than one person in ten (10% or more) may experience these side effects.
- **Common** Approximately one person in 10 to one person in 100 (1-10%) may experience these side effects.
- **Uncommon** Approximately one person in 100 to one person in 1000 (0.1-1%) may experience these side effects.
- **Rare** Approximately one person in 1000 to one person in 10,000 (0.01-0.1%) may experience these side effects.
- **Very rare** Approximately one person in 10,000 (less than 0.01%) may experience these side effects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body system</th>
<th>Very common</th>
<th>Common</th>
<th>Uncommon</th>
<th>Rare</th>
<th>Very rare</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Frequency</strong></td>
<td>10% or more</td>
<td>1–10%</td>
<td>0.1–1%</td>
<td>0.01–0.1%</td>
<td>Less than 0.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(General disorders and administration site conditions)</td>
<td>Flu-like illness; reduced appetite; temperature; rigors/shivering fatigue</td>
<td>Chest pain; fluid retention/swelling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Injection site reaction</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Blood and lymphatic system disorders)</td>
<td>Reduced white blood cells</td>
<td>Reduced platelets; reduced red blood cells</td>
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<td>(Immune system)</td>
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<td>(Endocrine disorders)</td>
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<td>(Metabolism and nutrition disorders)</td>
<td>Loss of appetite/nausea</td>
<td>Dehydration</td>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>High cholesterol levels</td>
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<td>(Mental health)</td>
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</table>

6 YOUR GUIDE TO INTERFERON ALPHA
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Very common</th>
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<td>Less than 0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nervous system disorders</td>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>Taste changes</td>
<td>Tingling/numbness in hands, legs and feet; dizziness; tremor; drowsiness/sleepiness</td>
<td>Coma; stroke; convulsions or fitting; problems with erection</td>
<td>Altered brain function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye disorders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Visual disturbances; eye infection</td>
<td>Blood clot/bleeding; inflammation/damage in retina of eye</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ear and labyrinth disorders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dizziness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kidney and urine</td>
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<td>Protein in urine</td>
<td>Kidney impairment/failure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiac (heart) disorders</td>
<td>Palpitations; blue tinge to skin and lips</td>
<td></td>
<td>Heart/lung failure; heart attack; heart failure; build up of fluid in lungs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vascular disorders</td>
<td>High/low blood pressure</td>
<td></td>
<td>Inflammation of blood vessels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lung disorders</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Breathlessness/cough</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gastro-intestinal disorders</td>
<td>Diarrhoea</td>
<td>Vomiting; abdominal pain; nausea; dry mouth</td>
<td>Pancreatitis; intestinal overactivity; constipation; heartburn; excessive wind</td>
<td>Reactivation of stomach ulcer; gastro-intestinal bleeding (non life-threatening)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liver</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Liver dysfunction/inflammation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscles, joints, skin and bones</td>
<td>Hair thinning/loss (reversible); sweating increased; pains in joints</td>
<td>Psoriasis; itching</td>
<td>Rash; dry skin; nose bleeds; mucosal dryness; runny nose; lupus; arthritis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Taking interferon

How to take interferon

Your doctor or nurse will give you instructions and demonstrate how to inject interferon. Most people inject themselves – it is very straightforward. If you do not feel confident, a relative or friend can be taught to inject you. You can also ask your nurse at your GP surgery to do this. However, you may find this becomes increasingly inconvenient over a long period of time.

Dosage

Your doctor, nurse or pharmacist will give dosage instructions. Please be sure to follow the directions precisely.

Storage and disposal of interferon

- Store in a fridge between 2-8°C. Keep the syringe and needles in their outer cartons to protect from light. Keep them separate from food by placing them in a plastic container or box. Do not freeze. Please refer to the chart on the next page for your particular brand.

- Interferon can be dangerous to others. Keep your medication and syringes in a secure location, well out of the reach of children and pets.

- You will be given a sharps bin to dispose of your needles once you have used them. Please return full sharps bins back to your hospital or GP’s surgery. Do not return used needles in a bag or any other container that could cause an injury to others.

- Return any unused medication and syringes to your local pharmacy or hospital.

Do not dispose of medication and syringes whether new or used in the bin and do not flush down the toilet.

Keeping track

It may be helpful to keep a record to remember when to take your injection and to record any side effects. You may be given a diary or booklet for this purpose.
Storage times by brand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brand name</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Storage temp</th>
<th>Storage time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roferon-A®</td>
<td>Cartridges</td>
<td>Room temperature (below 25º C) after the first dose</td>
<td>Up to 28 days at room temperature after first dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roferon-A®</td>
<td>Pre-filled syringes</td>
<td>Room temperature up to 28º C</td>
<td>Stable out of the fridge for 28 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEGASYS®</td>
<td>Pre-filled syringes</td>
<td>Room temperature</td>
<td>Stable out of the fridge for a maximum of 21 days for one occurrence only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IntronA®</td>
<td>Solution for injections</td>
<td>At or below 25º C for a period up to 7 days before use</td>
<td>Can be put back in the fridge at any time during a 7-day period prior to use. If the product is not used during the 7-day period, it must be discarded. It cannot be put back in the fridge for a new storage period and must be discarded.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What should I expect when I begin treatment?

Your first dose

- Take your first dose in the evening, because side effects can start within several hours of your first dose. Taking your first dose late in the day will allow you to sleep through any initial side effects such as a temperature or fever.

- Try to ensure you have the day off from work when you take your first injection. Some people can experience flu-like symptoms for several days, headache and tiredness the day after their first dose and for several days after the injection.

- Ensure you have any equipment needed laid out in front of you including your syringe, needle, sharps bin and instructions. Do not rush.

- If you are worried or unsure about the injection you can arrange to give it in the presence of a nurse (your practice nurse or haematology nurse).

- Take two paracetamol with your injection to reduce any flu-like symptoms or headache you may experience. You may only need to take paracetamol for the first one to two weeks you take interferon – please discuss this with your doctor.
How fast does it work?

The time for interferon to have a noticeable effect on your blood results varies, however it usually takes two to four weeks.

How will I feel?

As your blood counts reduce you may notice your symptoms improving. Any initial side effects experienced often reduce over a period of time.

Tips for coping with common side effects

**Flu-like symptoms** (including fever and chills, headache, aches and pains, cough and congestion)

- Take the injection shortly before you go to bed.
- Drink plenty of water approximately three litres a day, more in hot weather.
- Consider paracetomol as discussed above under “Your first dose”.
- If your fever is over 38°C and has not reduced with paracetomol contact your doctor.
- Avoid alcohol or caffeinated drinks prior to taking your injections. These may cause dehydration and headaches.
- Always report sudden severe headaches.
- Try to keep lights and noise low. A cool flannel or ice pack may offer relief from headaches.
- A warm bath, massage or hot pack may help with aches and pains.
- Report any new aches and pains you are experiencing since starting interferon to your doctor.
- Report any cough to your doctor and do not take any cough medicines until you have spoken to your doctor or nurse.
Lack of energy and fatigue

- Try to keep a regular daily routine to your day, listen to your body, and do not push yourself to complete activities or tasks if it feels too much for you.
- Take a short (40 minute) nap during the day, but not too late in the day as this may affect your sleep at night. Too much sleep can increase fatigue. If you have an activity planned, try to take a nap prior to this.
- Ensure you have a full night’s sleep.
- Prioritise activities; ask for help with tasks that you do not have the energy to complete.
- Try to exercise regularly. If you have not previously exercised, try a walk to the shop and back. Do not over-exercise, take it gently and for short periods until you feel able to increase the duration.

Nausea, loss of appetite and taste changes

- Eat small amounts often instead of three large meals a day.
- If you feel nauseous, avoid fast foods and foods with strong flavours, such as spicy, sweet, acidic and greasy foods.
- Have some ready-prepared meals in the freezer for days when you don’t feel like cooking.
- Avoid foods and drink that leave a strong aftertaste in your mouth.
- Avoid strong cooking smells.
- Try not to lie down straight after eating.
- Drink plain water. Avoid fizzy water and strong-tasting or caffeinated drinks.
- Eat from a small, half-filled plate if you have low appetite.
- Eat when you can and whenever you feel hungry.
- Eat small amounts of foods that appeal to you.
- Try to ensure you continue to eat a balanced, healthy diet.
- For reduced taste, try to eat stronger tasting foods, for instance choose strong cheese instead of mild cheese. Add more flavour than you would normally.
• For increased taste, avoid metal cutlery, try plainer foods, and avoid sweet and fried greasy foods.
• Eat and drink slowly.
• Try sucking sweets such as boiled sweets, mints and dark chocolate.
• If you notice weight loss tell your doctor or nurse.

Mood changes

Mood changes are common and it is important to monitor for them. If you have significantly low mood, if you lose enjoyment of activities that usually give you pleasure or are frequently experiencing low mood or tearfulness, you should report this to your doctor.

Frequently asked questions

Will I need follow up?

You will need more frequent blood tests during the first weeks of treatment to determine how your body is responding to the medication. Once your body has adjusted to the medication you will need less frequent checks, perhaps once every two to three months. Your kidney and liver function may also be checked with blood tests.

Can I take other medicines if I am taking interferon?

Whenever you take interferon (or in fact any medication) it is important to inform your medical advisors about all other medications you are taking: this includes medicines prescribed for you as well as any vitamins, herbal supplements or remedies bought in chemists. Always provide the names of these medications and remedies to the hospital doctors, GPs, nurses and pharmacists who are treating you, prescribing additional medications or giving you advice. It can be very helpful to carry a list of the names and dosages of all your medicines to show to your doctor or nurse at appointments.
Some medicines may interact with interferon or peginterferon. These include:

- Medicines for asthma
- Anti HIV therapy
- Zidovudine in combination with ribavirin and interferon
- Warfarin (peginterferon)
- Phenytoin (peginterferon)
- Flecanide (peginterferon)
- ACE inhibitors
- Erythropoietin
- Melphalan
- Prednisolone
- Theophylline
- Aminophylline
- Cyclophosphamide
- Doxorubicin
- Teniposide
- Narcotics/sedatives
- Grapefruit juice

What if I have other medical conditions?

All medications have potential risks and side effects. Interferon alpha should be used with caution, (if at all), if you have any of the following conditions:

- An allergy to any of the ingredients in the medicine (these will be listed on the information leafet that came with your injections) or have had a severe reaction to other formulations of interferon
- Severe heart problems or a history of heart problems
- Kidney problems or liver problems
- Seizures (e.g. epilepsy) and/or other nervous conditions
- Psychiatric illness or difficulties (current or past)
- An autoimmune disease such as thyroid dysfunction or vasculitis
- Eye conditions
- Heart/lung/liver or other organ transplant
- Diabetes
- Hepatitis C
- HIV and are treated with anti-HIV medicines
- Psoriasis
- Blood clotting disorder

If you think you may have one of these conditions please discuss with your doctor. This may not mean you cannot have interferon, but it should be used with caution.

Can I eat and drink normally?

Yes. We recommend a normal healthy diet and drinking plenty of water.
Can I drink alcohol?

While it is safe to drink alcohol in moderation whilst taking interferon, we recommend you do not exceed the recommended weekly limits of a maximum of 21 units of alcohol per week for a man and maximum of 14 units of alcohol a week for a woman. Alcohol can cause dehydration and it is important to avoid becoming dehydrated if you have an MPN. Please ask your nurse or doctor if you require more information regarding alcohol consumption.

What if I want to have a child?

Whilst it is safe to conceive or father a child whilst taking interferon we always recommend you discuss any plans you have to try to conceive with your doctor or nurse and inform him or her as soon as you find out you or your partner is pregnant.

Can I breastfeed while taking interferon?

Whilst it is known that interferon transfers into the breast milk in small amounts, there has to date been no reports of adverse effects on babies. The decision to breastfeed should be made by balancing benefits against the risk. Your haematologist and maternity team can help you make this decision.

Who will prescribe interferon for me?

Your doctor, specially trained nurse, hospital pharmacist or sometimes your GP will prescribe your medication.

Can I drive?

You may find that when you begin taking interferon that your ability to drive and operate machinery is affected. We recommend when you begin taking this medication that you wait to see how you react before deciding if you are able to drive. If you are in any way feeling tired or fatigued do not drive and please discuss this with your doctor or nurse.

Can I travel whilst taking interferon?

Yes! We recommend you discuss all travel plans with your nurse or doctor prior to travelling. Ensure you have suitable travel insurance and enough of your medication to take with you. Most airline companies require a covering letter from
your doctor to take injections on board, therefore we advise you check when you book your flight. Keep your injections in your hand luggage, as the temperature of the hold may not be appropriate. You will need to ensure your interferon is stored at the correct temperature (see chart on storing interferon). One way of keeping your interferon cold is to carry it in a coolbag with a cold pack, however you need to ensure you do not freeze it. Some airlines may offer to refrigerate it for you – ask as you go on board.

How do I dispose of my sharps bin once it is full?

Please ensure that full sharps bins are properly closed. Return full bins to the hospital or surgery which provided it to you. Do not use a bag or any other container apart from a sharps bin to return used syringes – this is dangerous and may not be accepted.

Can I have vaccinations such as the flu jab whilst taking interferon?

It is always advisable to consult your doctor or nurse prior to having a vaccination. Your medical team will check your overall health and immune system status prior to vaccination to ensure that vaccination is safe for you.

What to do if…

You have taken too much medicine/someone else has taken your medicine

If you have taken an extra dose or if another person has taken your medication please contact your nurse or doctor as soon as possible.

You were sick shortly after having an injection

Being sick will not affect the absorption of an injection into your body. If you are persistently sick after injecting please contact your nurse or doctor.

You forget to take a dose

If you have forgotten to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember. Do not take two doses on the same day. If you have forgotten to take several doses, start taking them again and contact your doctor.
You bleed after having an injection

A small drop of blood immediately after injecting is nothing to worry about – your skin has tiny blood vessels just below the skin and you may have nicked these vessels with the needle. Continuous bleeding or heavy bruising at the injection site should always be checked by a nurse or doctor.

Your skin becomes sore, red or weepy

You must always see your nurse or doctor if you notice your skin becomes sore, broken, red or weeping.

If you need to have a medical procedure or operation

If you need to have an operation or procedure (including dental work), you may occasionally be required to adjust or stop your interferon. It is important that you inform the doctor or dentist planning the procedure or operation that you are taking interferon and that they discuss plans for your procedure with your haematology doctor or nurse. We always recommend that you inform your haematology doctor or nurse if you have any procedures or operations planned.

If you feel anxious about taking interferon

If you have concerns, please discuss this with your doctor or nurse. You can also visit the Support section of our website www.mpvoice.org.uk

If you do not want to take this medication

It is entirely your decision as to whether to start treatment with interferon. If after discussing everything with your haematologist you still feel uncertain or prefer not to take this medication, you can choose not to take it.

Keep your doctor or nurse in the loop

If you decide not to take interferon or if you elect to stop after you begin treatment, it is important to inform your doctor or nurse of your decision. He or she can recommend alternatives or other suggestions if necessary to safeguard your health.
If you prefer an alternative

There are other treatment alternatives available, and you can discuss these with your haematologist. If you wish to read up about treatment alternatives, please visit our website at www.mpnvoice.org.uk and click on “Treatments”.

Consent

Your doctor will probably ask you to sign a consent form if you decide to begin treatment. This confirms that you know why interferon has been recommended for you, and that you understand the risks and benefits of this treatment.

What can I do to help myself?

If you have an MPN it’s important to take good care of yourself. There are many things you can do to feel better.

- Good nutrition is important. Eat a balanced diet including lots of fresh fruit and vegetables, lean protein and whole grains.
- Drink plenty of water and be careful to prevent dehydration by avoiding excessive alcohol and caffeinated drinks.
- Maintain a normal weight and maintain your muscle mass to help keep your cholesterol and blood sugar within normal limits.
- Exercise is very beneficial for people with MPNs and helps to fight fatigue. Be sure to check with your GP and haematologist before launching on any new programme and start slowly and gently if you have not exercised before.
- Stop smoking. Ask your GP if you need help.
Making the adjustment

It can be disconcerting to start a new medication or find you must increase your dosage. You may feel that your MPN is getting worse or that you are at greater risk of serious medical problems. You may also feel concerned about the long and short term risks of taking this medication. It is normal to feel this way and many people with MPNs have had similar experiences. You may want to discuss your concerns with a family member or friend. MPN Voice offers a “buddy” programme for interested patients. Contact us at buddies@mpnvoice.org.uk for more information.

It’s worth bearing in mind that many people with MPNs have a long life expectancy, and that the treatments are very effective at controlling cell production. You can read more about the psychological aspects of MPN treatment on our website at www.mpnvoice.org.uk under “Support”.

Medical exemptions for treatment

MPN patients in England are entitled to an exemption certificate and should obtain a FP92A form from their GP or haematologist. Further details can be found on our website at www.mpnvoice.org.uk in the living-with MPNs, everyday challenges/cost of medication section.
Resources for patients and families

**MPN Voice**
Registered under the auspices of Guy’s and St Thomas’ charity, MPN Voice provides patients and families affected by MPNs with a comprehensive range of disease and medication publications, regular newsletters, a buddy scheme and runs regional patient forums as well as funding research into MPNs and drugs trials. The website also offers access to an online community of MPN patients as well as the latest news and reports from leading healthcare professionals.

www.mpnvoice.org.uk

**Anthony Nolan**
It’s vision is to save the lives of everyone who needs a bone marrow or stem cell transplant. Established in 1974, the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Register was the founding member of Bone Marrows Worldwide in 1988. Today the register has almost ½ million potential donors on it.

Tel: 0303 303 0303
www.anthonynolan.org

**British Heart Foundation**
Founded over 50 years ago by a group of medical professionals who wanted to fund extra research into the causes, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of heart and circulatory disease. The website offers health advice to prevent heart disease and practical tips for healthy living.

www.bhf.org.uk

**Leukaemia Care**
Offers a helpline and website which provides support to anyone affected by a blood or lymphatic cancer.

Tel: 08088 010 444
www.leukaemiacare.org.uk
Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research
The charity focuses on improving the lives of patients with all types of blood cancer, including leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma. It does this through dedicated research focused on finding the causes, improving diagnosis and treatments as well as investment in groundbreaking clinical trials for all blood cancer patients.

www.leukaemialymphomaresearch.org.uk

Medicines.org
A website run in collaboration with the NHS providing up to date, reliable and understandable information about medicines. A great resource for all medicines.

www.medicines.org.uk

Macmillan Cancer Support
Offers a comprehensive website with information about MPNs, chemotherapy drugs, side effects and how best to manage side effects.

Tel: 0808 808 0000
www.macmillan.org.uk

Spotlight on MPN
An international website on myeloproliferative neoplasms, intended for patients and caregivers. Produced by Novartis Oncology.

www.spotlightonmpn.com

Stroke Association
Offering help and advice for people and families affected by stroke. The website offers tips on recognising the signs of a stroke as well as the preventative lifestyle measures everyone should consider if at high risk of a stroke.

Tel: 0303 3033 100
www.stroke.org.uk
Could you help us?

Your support will enable us to help many more MPN patients and their families

If you have an MPN or know someone with this condition, MPN Voice aims to offer support and advice.

Visit www.mpnvoice.org.uk to find out more about our services:
- Buddy System
- Medical Alert Cards
- Newsletters
- Treatment and drug leaflets
- Regional patient forums
- Online community of MPN patients
- Funding of some of the latest MPN research
- Backing by leading health professionals

www.mpnvoice.org.uk
email info@mpnvoice.org.uk

If you can help, please complete the donation form on the next page.
Donations

MPN Voice is funded by donations made by generous supporters. All money raised goes towards providing better information for patients and their families e.g. booklets such as this, as well as investing in research to investigate why some people develop MPNs. Any donation will make a difference so thank you for your kind support.

I’d like to make a gift of £

☐ Payment enclosed

or please debit my ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Amex ☐ Maestro ☐ Visa Delta

Please make your cheque, postal order or CAF voucher payable to Guy’s and St Thomas’ Charity – MPN Voice Fund

Make your donation go further

If you are a UK taxpayer, Guy’s and St Thomas’ Charity, on behalf of MPN Voice, can reclaim the tax on your donation and receive an extra 25p for every £1 donated.

You need to have paid at least as much UK Income and/or Capital Gains Tax as the amount to be reclaimed on all your charitable donations in the appropriate tax year. Please inform us if you no longer pay UK tax at any time after the date of this declaration.

☐ Yes, I would like Guy’s and St Thomas’ Charity, to treat this and all donations I have made in the 4 years prior to this year, and all future donations, as Gift Aid donations.

☐ Please tick if you are NOT a UK tax payer

Signature 

Date

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Guy’s and St Thomas’ Charity will hold your details to process your donation and keep you up to date on fundraising and what’s happening at Guy’s and St Thomas’. If you would prefer not to hear from us, please let us know now, or at any time by telephone on 0207 848 4701 or email supportgstt@togetherwecan.org.uk

For further information please call 0207 848 4701

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Please fill in your contact details here.

Title

First name

Last name

Address

Postcode

Email

Phone

Please return completed form to Freepost RSUJ-TJCG-YUYU, Guy’s and St Thomas’ Charity, London, SE1 8WA
About this publication and MPN Voice

This document was written by Yvonne Francis, an NHS MPN specialist nurse, with input from consultant haematologists, specialist nurses, psychologists and volunteers of MPN Voice.

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We welcome your feedback. Please write with your suggestions to our postal address or email us at info@mpnvoice.org.uk

You can also contact the Guy’s and St Thomas’ Charity at info@gsttcharity.org.uk or visit their website for more information at www.gsttcharity.org.uk

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Registered charity No. 251983-30

This leaflet was first published in October, 2009.
Revision 2.0 in November 2013
For review in two years (November 2015)

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