



## Medical Alert

**You have been given this card because you have cancer and are at risk of a Spinal Cord Compression.**

If you develop any of the symptoms overleaf you **MUST URGENTLY** contact.

Clinic Hours—Report to GP surgery for assessment.

Out of Hours - Report to A&E or contact Velindre Cancer Centre for assessment.

### Information for Health Care Professionals:

- Cord Compression requires urgent diagnostic imaging using MRI.
- It is important that patients are nursed lying flat to ensure spine safety.
- Following a positive diagnosis urgent referral (within 24 hours) should be made for treatment.

Contact On-call Spinal Surgery Team at UHW or oncologist for further info.

Magenta line = KNIFE GUIDE

## Information for Patients

You **MUST** contact your GP or hospital team **URGENTLY** if you develop any of the symptoms below.

- Back pain in one part of your spine that is severe, distressing or different from any usual pain you may have (especially if it affects the upper spine or neck).
- Severe increasing pain in the spine that changes with lying down or standing up, when lifting or straining, wakes you at night or prevents sleep.
- Pain which starts in the spine and goes around the front of the chest or abdomen.
- Pain down the leg or arm.
- New feeling of clumsiness/weakness of the arms/legs or difficulty walking.
- Numbness in the arms or legs.
- Difficulty in control of passing water or opening your bowels.

Magenta line = KNIFE GUIDE