

We are a smoke free organisation and to improve public health, smoking is not permitted anywhere on the hospital site. Thank you for your co-operation.

NHS Number: 400 067 0514
Our Ref: SP/JR/670524AL

Medway Maritime Hospital
Windmill Road
Gillingham
Kent
ME7 5NY
Tel: 01634 830000

Date of clinic: 21/07/2021 – YANSO
Telephone Clinic

Date of letter: 17/08/2021
DR F IGWE
ST GEORGES MEDICAL CENTRE
55 ST GEORGES AVENUE
SHEERNESS
KENT
ME12 1QU

Acute Specialist Medicine Programme
Respiratory Department
Direct Line: 01634 830000 ext.

Dear Dr IGWE

Re: MRS KATRINA MARGERY DoB: 24/05/1967 FLAT 1, WING HOUSE, WING ROAD, LEYSDOWN-ON-SEA, SHEERNESS, KENT ME12 4QR

Diagnosis

Asthma

Possible COPD

Severe back pain and numbness ? spinal cord compression

Thank you for referring this 54 year old lady. She has not worked for many years because of underlying health problems. She started smoking at the age of 25 years and smoked a maximum of 10 per day. She is now vaping and smoking 1 cigarette per day. She did stop for five years in the past. She was exposed to passive smoking. There is a family history of lung cancer (father) and COPD (sister). Asthma was diagnosed 15 years ago but I wonder whether this is actually COPD. She has had a bad chest since childhood and it is possible she might have bronchiectasis. She has had no hospital admissions with respiratory problems.

She has been breathless on exertion with very minimal exercise tolerance for many months and told me that she has been unable to get an appointment in the GP surgery. She can only walk 8 – 10 steps and her breathlessness is not relieved by a salbutamol inhaler. She does not have a peak flow meter and does not know what her peak flow is, so it is difficult to know whether her asthma is well controlled or not. She has hay fever.

She sleeps on three pillows and has to sit up because of breathlessness and a cough. She is coughing up large amounts of clear sputum all day and this is occasionally green. She has had no haemoptysis. She complains of a sharp pain under her left breast and chest tightness. She has not had a mammogram. She had a DVT many years ago and was on warfarin for five years. I do not know the circumstances as she was not an excellent historian.

She was brought up in a Children's home. She lives alone. Her appetite is ok. She does not think she has lost any weight. She suffers with depression and arthritis.

She is on citalopram 50 mg a day, betmiga 50 mg od, Fostair inhaler 200/6 x puffs bd via a spacer and is using the salbutamol reliever 8 – 10 times per day without any improvement, so

her breathlessness may not be due to asthma. She has the first dose of the Covid vaccine and is due to have the second one next week. She is not allergic to any medication.

On examination today, she looked unwell and in pain. She complained of back pain. She had difficulty walking and complained of numbness in her thigh. I did not carry out a full neurological examination as I did not have time in my clinic. She was breathless, her respiratory rate was 20 breaths per minute. She was not clubbed and she had no lymphadenopathy. Her heart sounds were normal but she was extremely wheezy throughout the lung fields. Oxygen saturation was 95% at rest. She also had peripheral oedema and painful feet. She also told me on direct questioning that she has had diarrhoea for six months but no blood in her stool.

This lady has a lot of things going on, she may well have cardiac failure and I am concerned about her back pain and numbness and think she needs urgent investigation. Therefore, I have persuaded her to go to Medway Hospital for assessment and immediate investigations.

i will offer her another appointment in a few weeks.

Yours sincerely

Letter electronically verified by clinician
Shanthi Paramothayan PhD FRCP
Consultant Respiratory Physician

CC:

Private and Confidential
MRS KATRINA MARGERY
FLAT 1, WING HOUSE
WING ROAD, LEYSDOWN-ON-SEA
SHEERNESS
KENT
ME12 4QR

In accordance with the Medway NHS Trust policy, a copy of this letter has been sent to the patient for information purposes.