Immunotherapy and its side effects:
Key points for GPs and Practice Nurses seeing Patients

Flag all patients having immunotherapy on patient system to highlight risk of side effects during treatment and for at least 12 months after finishing treatment.

Patients can present with non-specific symptoms so consider blood tests to rule out biochemical-only changes, such as hepatitis, adrenal insufficiency and thyroid dysfunction.

Initially mild symptoms such as diarrhoea, breathlessness or headaches can rapidly progress into colitis, pneumonitis or encephalitis.

Contact hospital advice line/oncologist straightaway if concerned your patient may have immunotherapy side effects – they may carry an immunotherapy alert card with details.

Refer to UKONS Oncology/Haematology Treatment Toxicity Risk Assessment Tool regarding side effects (includes immunotherapy).

Remember: Think possible ‘itis’ for any patient that is on or has had immunotherapy.

For more information visit cruk.org/immunotherapy-for-HPs

Together we will beat cancer