

The role of the skin cancer nurse specialist and the multi-disciplinary team

Dermatology

Patient Information Leaflet

What is a skin cancer nurse specialist?

A skin cancer nurse specialist is an experienced, dedicated health professional who focuses on the care and support of people diagnosed with skin cancer. This nurse is known as your Keyworker.

What service does a skin cancer nurse specialist provide?

The specialist nurse offers extra support and guidance to patients who have, or have had, any form of skin cancer. The nurse can offer personal support, written information, and advice at any time throughout your illness.

How the skin cancer nurse may be able to help you

Explaining your illness and treatment:

Your nurse will answer your questions and provide clear information so you can discuss your care in detail. Many people find that more information and comprehensive advice eases their worries.

Emotional Support:

Dealing with a diagnosis or potential diagnosis of cancer is very difficult. Sometimes it can help just to talk things through.

Helping to co-ordinate your care:

The nurse can talk to doctors, nurses and other health professionals involved in your care, both in the hospital and in the community.

Advice:

Your nurse can advise you on a range of issues, directly or indirectly related to having skin cancer, or recommend other sources of advice and information.

The Skin Cancer Multi-Disciplinary Team

Our team of experts specialise in caring for patients with skin cancer. They meet to discuss and determine the safest and most effective course of action for your treatment.

This course of action for your treatment will then be explained to you, providing you with the opportunity to ask questions. If, after the meeting, or at any other time, there are changes to your treatment plan, the skin cancer nurse specialist will be in contact to discuss these with you.

There is a local skin cancer team at Royal Lancaster Infirmary and a specialist meeting at Royal Preston Hospital. The team works in partnership with other hospitals to co-ordinate your care.

Team members

Consultant Dermatologist: a doctor who specialises in diagnosing and treating skin disease, including skin cancer.

Maxillofacial Surgeon: Head and neck specialist.

Consultant Plastic Surgeon: a doctor who specialises in plastic and reconstructive surgery.

Consultant Histopathologist: a doctor who specialises in looking at skin samples under the microscope to determine a diagnosis.

Co-ordinator: a staff member who provides clerical support for the team meetings, records appropriate information and communicates with those who require that information.

Skin Cancer Nurse Specialist.

There may also be other health professionals involved in patient care for skin cancer.

How to contact the skin cancer team

You can contact the skin cancer nurse specialist yourself or give permission for others involved in your care to make contact on your behalf. Your skin cancer nurse specialist/s are: **Julie Tait or Ceri Kennedy Tel: 07824 561 668**

If they are not available, an answer machine will take your message. Leave your name, hospital number (if known - this begins with RTX-), or date of birth, and a contact telephone number. Your call will be returned within a few days. If you need an urgent reply, please contact your GP.

Other Useful Contacts

Cancer Care: www.cancercare.org.uk
Lancaster: 01524 381 820
Kendal: 01539 735 800

Cancer help: www.cancerhelppreston.co.uk
Garstang: 01995 606 469

Macmillan Cancer Support:
www.macmillan.org.uk
0808 808 0000

Cancer Help UK (Cancer Research UK):
www.cancerhelp.org.uk
0808 800 4040

Clinical trials help us to find out if a different type of treatment is better than what is already available. These may be discussed by your consultant. Please ask if you are interested.

Would you like more information about cancer? If so, please visit www.nhs.uk/ips to create your own Personalised Information Prescription.

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Other formats

If you would like to receive this information in an alternative format, then please contact : 01539 795497.

Travelling to our hospitals

For the best way to plan your journey visit our website: <http://www.UHMB.nhs.uk/> or contact Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS): 01539 795497.

Useful Contact Details

NHS 111 (for 24 hour urgent health advice): telephone 111

Your Information

If you would like to know how we use, share, disclose and secure your information and your rights of access to the information we hold about you, visit the Trust's website: <http://www.UHMB.nhs.uk/> or contact Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01539 795497.

Evidence

Details of the evidence used in writing this leaflet are available on request from: Patient Information Officer at 01524 512476.

Feedback

We appreciate and encourage feedback. If you need advice or are concerned about any aspect of care or treatment, please speak to a member of staff or contact PALS on 01539 795497.

UHMBT is a no smoking Trust. Smoking is not permitted on any of the hospital sites. You can contact the NHS North Lancashire Stop Smoking services on the number below:

NHS Quit Squad - **0800 328 6297**

If you live in Cumbria, please call **0300 013 3000** to find a local pharmacy who are offers 1-2-1 support and nicotine replacement therapy.

University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay Trust: a great place to be cared for; a great place to work.