

## **Dermatology**

# **The role of the Macmillan skin cancer clinical nurse specialist**

### **Information for patients on the role of your key worker and the multi-disciplinary team.**

Your Macmillan skin cancer clinical nurse specialists (CNS) are known as key workers. They are supported by an advanced nurse practitioner in skin oncology. They are based at the University Hospital in Coventry, but they cover St Cross Hospital in Rugby and also George Eliot Hospital in Nuneaton.

You can contact your CNS (Monday to Friday) on 024 7696 6085 or 024 7696 4000 and ask switchboard to bleep 4316.

### **What is a clinical nurse specialist?**

There are many different kinds of nurses involved in cancer care. Some of these nurses are called clinical nurse specialists (CNS). These nurses will have undertaken specialist training in cancer management. Some CNSs were originally funded by the charity Macmillan Cancer Support.

A skin cancer CNS is a qualified nurse with additional knowledge and experience. They work as part of the health care team to offer advice and support. They can also monitor people with skin cancer at any stage of their treatment.



## **What can the CNS offer to patients diagnosed with a skin cancer?**

- Provide support, advice and information about your type of skin cancer
- Be available to meet you at the time of diagnosis, during your treatment and at follow up appointments
- Be available for advice and support between clinic appointments if needed
- Teach you about your skin type and how to detect any changes (self-examination)
- Discuss any tests with you that your doctor may want you to have
- Inform you about how to protect your skin from the sun
- Be a link between yourself, your medical team, and the multi-disciplinary team
- Referrals to other support / information agencies as necessary

## **The multi-disciplinary team for skin cancer**

When you have been diagnosed with a skin cancer, the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) will review and discuss your case. The MDT includes dermatologists, plastic surgeons, histopathologists, oncologists and specialist nurses. This team meets bi-monthly and is responsible for recommending the treatment plan for your type of skin cancer following national guidelines.

These recommendations will be discussed with you in clinic.

## **Where will you see the CNS?**

- They will be introduced to you during your consultation with the consultant / doctor within the Dermatology, Plastic Surgery or Oncology Department.
- They will be available to see you when you attend for follow up appointments if needed
- Arrangements can be made to see them in between appointments in the nurse led clinic
- They can make telephone contact in between visits if needed, for advice or support.

### **Holistic needs assessment**

Your CNS offers both practical and emotional support to patients and their families. To highlight some of the issues which may be causing you worry, your nurse can offer a routine assessment called a Holistic Needs Assessment. This may be done electronically via an iPad during your follow-up period or over the telephone. You will be given more information about this.

This assessment allows the clinical nurse specialist to assess the amount of worry or distress you may be feeling. This will help them to find ways to help you. The problem may be related to your health, your finances, home circumstances, or any other aspect of your life which is causing you concern. A care plan can then be made to help deal with these.

If you would like to complete this assessment please discuss this with your nurse.

### **Additional information**

#### **Finance**

Some patients are entitled to additional income or grants. If you would like a review of your income, please make the nurse aware and she can refer you to our Macmillan benefits advisor. You may also be entitled to free prescriptions.

#### **Research**

You may be asked to take part in a research trial. This does not always involve medication and may be in the form of a questionnaire. If you are interested, please speak to your nurse.

## Further sources of information – Local Services

### Department of Dermatology

UHCW (Coventry)

**024 7696 6133**

### Plastic Surgery Department

UHCW (Coventry)

**024 7696 5289**

### Macmillan Cancer Information Centre

**024 7696 6052**

Information and support based at University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire. This is a free service, which provides information about all aspects of cancer as well as emotional support.

Service is open Monday to Friday, 9am – 4pm

Service is not open on bank holidays.

### Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

**0800 028 4203**

PALS can help with any concerns you may have about Trust services.

### Coventry Benefits Advice Line

**024 7683 2000**

Offers advice and information regarding benefits over the telephone. Appointments can be made for a face-to-face consultation to help complete benefit forms.

### Coventry Citizens Advice Bureau

**024 7625 2050**

Offers advice on benefits and other issues to cancer patients and carers at University Hospital. Call 024 7625 2050 for an appointment.

## Further sources of information - National Services

There are many organisations who can also help to only support you and provide more information. If you would like to know more about other organisations, please ask the CNS team.

### Macmillan Cancer Support

0808 808 00 00

[www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)

### Cancer Research U.K

0808 800 40 40

[www.cancerhelp.org.uk](http://www.cancerhelp.org.uk)

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us on 024 7696 6085 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke-free policy.

## Did we get it right?

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This helps us make further improvements and recognise members of staff who provide a good service.

Have your say. Scan the QR code or visit:

[www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback](http://www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback)



#### Document History

Department	Dermatology
Contact:	26085
Updated:	March 2023
Review:	March 2025
Version:	11
Reference:	HIC/LFT/132/06