Dermatology Department

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 known as key workers are: Louise McErlean and Joyce Opaleke and are supported by Louise Watson, Advanced Nurse Practitioner in skin oncology. They are based in the Dermatology Department of University Hospital in Coventry. 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 and its management. Some CNSs are funded by the charity Macmillan Cancer Support.

The skin cancer CNS is a qualified nurse with additional knowledge and experience and works as part of the health care team offering advice and support to 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 follow up appointments;
- Be available for advice and support between clinic appointments if required;
- Teach you about your skin type and how to detect any changes (self examination);
- Discuss any tests with you which your doctor may wish you to undergo;
- 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.
Patient Information

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 required.
- Arrangements can be made to see her in between appointments if necessary in the nurse led clinic.
- They can make telephone contact in between visits if required, 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 or concern, 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.

This assessment allows her to assess the amount of worry or distress you may be feeling and 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 developed to help deal with these. If you would like to complete this assessment please discuss this with your nurse.

Your CNS is based at UHCW in Coventry. One of the nurses will usually be at Rugby St Cross on Monday afternoons. Please contact them to confirm this.

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 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.
Patient Information

Further sources of information – Local Services

Department of Dermatology
UHCW (Coventry) 024 7696 6133
Hospital of St Cross (Rugby) 01788 963 249

Plastic Surgery Department
UHCW (Coventry) 024 7696 5289
Hospital of St Cross (Rugby) 01788 963192

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 9.00am – 4.00pm (not 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. Telephone the above number for an appointment.

Further sources of information - National Services

Macmillan Cancer Support 0808 808 00 00
www.macmillan.org.uk

Melanoma and related cancers information line (MARCS LINE) 01722 415071
www.wessexcancer.org

Cancer Research U.K 0808 800 40 40
www.cancerhelp.org.uk
Patient Information

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

The Trust operates a smoke-free policy.

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