

Oncology

Macmillan Clinical Nurse Specialist: Cancer of the Unknown Primary (CUP)

This leaflet explains the role of the Clinical Nurse Specialist and Key Worker. During your treatment for your cancer you will be assigned a Clinical Nurse Specialist who will often also be your Key Worker.

What is a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)?

There are many different kinds of nurses involved in cancer care including the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS). Clinical Nurse Specialists will have undertaken specialist training in cancer and its management. Some CNSs are funded by the charity Macmillan Cancer Support, which is the case for the cancer of the unknown primary (CUP) CNS.

What does the Macmillan Cancer of the Unknown Primary CNS do?

They are able to offer support, information, advice and guidance to patients with a diagnosis of cancer but it is unsure where the primary cancer is.

All patients with cancer should have access to a CNS. They are usually present with the consultant when a diagnosis of cancer is given. If you are not sure whether you have been assigned a CNS, please ask your consultant.

The CNS works closely with hospital nurses, doctors and other health care professionals to maximise the independence, dignity and quality of life of people suffering from cancer. They also liaise closely with community carers and family doctors (GPs) to ensure the highest quality of care at home.

You may see the CNS when you are on the ward, whilst having surgery, radiotherapy or chemotherapy treatment, or at your outpatient appointments.

You will be given contact details by your CNS and they can be contacted either by telephone or bleep between the hours of 8.00am - 4.00pm Monday to Friday.

Out of Hours contact: Oncology Ward 35: Tel 024 7696 5528 (chemotherapy queries only) or contact your GP.



Patient Information

What can the Macmillan CUP CNS offer me?

- A contact point for people with cancer at any stage;
- Advice and support for you, your relatives, carers and friends;
- Advice about treatments such as radiotherapy, Hormone therapy and chemotherapy;
- Information about your illness;
- Advice on your continued care at home;
- Someone to talk to about worries or problems;
- Advice on how to manage financial problems;
- Be a link between yourself and your medical team;
- Advice on managing symptoms and side-effects.

What is a Key Worker?

The Key Worker is a member of the medical team looking after you and will be your main point of contact for any concerns you may have about your tests or treatment. They will be very familiar with your case and will co-ordinate your care.

This role is usually carried out by the CNS, but this name may change as your needs change. We will let you know if this happens.

Your Macmillan Clinical Nurse Specialist is: Hollie Mower / Ann Lambe

Contact Details: Tel. 024 7696 4000 and ask for bleep 1641

Useful websites:

Cancer of Unknown Primary Foundation (Jo's Friends) www.cupfoundjo.org

Macmillan Cancer Support: www.macmillan.org.uk

Macmillan Cancer Information Centre 024 7696 6052

Information and support based at University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire. Cancer Information is a free service, which provides information about all aspects of cancer as well as emotional support. The service is based on the ground floor near the main entrance and is open Monday to Friday 9.00am – 4.00pm (not bank holidays).

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 5530 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy

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