

## **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 (CNS) are known as key workers and are supported by an Advanced Nurse Practitioner in skin oncology. They are based at the 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 management. Some CNSs are funded by the charity Macmillan Cancer Support.

The skin cancer CNS is a qualified nurse with additional knowledge and experience; working 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;



## Patient Information

- 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.

## 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 them 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. You will be given additional information about this.

## Patient Information

This assessment allows them 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.

## 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

## Patient Information

### **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](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)

### **Melanoma and related cancers information line (MARCS LINE) 01722 415071**

[www.wessexcancer.org](http://www.wessexcancer.org)

### **Cancer Research U.K            0808 800 40 40**

[www.cancerhelp.org.uk](http://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 us on 024 7696 6085 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke-free policy.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email [feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk](mailto:feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk)

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