



Salisbury
NHS Foundation Trust

Gynaecological Cancer Services



Clinical Nurse Specialist and Key Worker Information for Gynaecological Cancer

This leaflet has been written to explain the role of the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) and that of the Key Worker. These roles may vary slightly from Trust to Trust. The explanation given in this leaflet is of the way the role works in Salisbury District Hospital.

What is a Clinical Nurse Specialist?

The CNS is a trained nurse who is a specialist in dealing with a particular type of illness, such as bowel cancer, lung cancer or something else not connected with cancer. In Salisbury District Hospital most of the cancer tumour sites have a CNS.

What can they offer me?

The CNS will be able to offer support to you and your family during your treatment for cancer. Some CNS have their own clinics where they will examine patients and some have been specially trained to do some types of investigations. They will work very closely with the rest of their team, which is made up of doctors, nurses and other health professionals. They can offer you emotional support, advice about your health problems, give you information about your treatment and other information you may find helpful, including dealing with financial problems or needing psychological support. They will do their best to visit you if you are on one of the wards or having chemotherapy treatment. They will keep in contact with you whether you are having treatment as an in-patient or an outpatient. They will also be available for telephone advice

What hours will they be available?

They work from Monday to Friday 9am til 5pm. If they are on holiday or away for other reasons, another CNS will help with your problem. They do not work weekends or bank holidays. A message left on their answer phone will make sure they contact you as soon as they are back in the office, or it will give you another number to ring.

What is a keyworker?

A keyworker is someone who, with your consent and agreement takes a key role in co-ordinating your care and making sure that you know who to contact for help, advice and information.

Who will be my keyworker?

For most patients, while having care and treatment in the hospital the keyworker will be the CNS. This may change if you need chemotherapy or need to go to another hospital for treatment but we try hard to keep any changes in your key worker to a minimum. If a change might benefit you, this will be discussed with you by your CNS or consultant.

Once you are discharged from hospital care, your keyworker will normally be your GP who will be in charge of your care at home, though you will still be able to contact the CNS if you need to.

Telephone 01722 336262 ext. 4431 and leave a message.

Who is the Gynaecology Cancer Navigator?

The purpose of this role is to complement the existing multidisciplinary team (MDT) and support patients through the diagnostic pathway and

treatment pathways, if a cancer is confirmed and follow up.

The Gynaecology Navigator role provides patients and their families who are on these pathways a point of contact for support. Waiting for appointments, investigations and treatments can be stressful for patients. These roles are here to support our patients through this process.

The Gynaecology Navigator will be a point of contact for the following:

- To liaise and alert the clinical team if required
- To chase scan appointments, coordinate results, appointments and queries related to these aspects
- Signposting to support services

As part of the wider clinical team and MDT to support patients and their families with the elements of a person centred approach to their care

Multi Disciplinary Teams in Gynaecological Cancer Services

This leaflet has been written to introduce you to the Gynae-oncology Services at Salisbury District Hospital.

What is an MDT meeting?

MDT is short for Multi Disciplinary Team. We meet every Wednesday at 1pm to discuss x-rays, scans, biopsy and blood results in order to reach a diagnosis and together decide what is the best treatment to recommend for you.

Our main goal is to diagnose or exclude cancer, your case is being

discussed at the MDT with this goal in mind.

The Multi-disciplinary team consists of:

- the Gynaecology MDT Lead Consultant,
- the other Gynaecology Consultants in the team.
- Clinical Nurse Specialist,
- the MDT Coordinator, (who works with your CNS to organise the meeting and arrange any further tests that may be needed or appointments).
- Gynaecology Oncology Navigator (works closely with your CNS and provides support to you and your family).
- a Consultant histopathologist (a specialist at looking at cells and tissue under a microscope)
- a Consultant radiologist (a specialist at understanding x-rays, CT scans, MRI's etc)
- an oncologist (a cancer specialist who understands and prescribes chemotherapy or radiotherapy)
- a specialist from palliative care (a doctor or nurse who works with your MDT to assess and treat any symptoms or anxieties caused by the cancer)
- a research nurse (this nurse has a very active role in research studies and will identify any relevant research trials for individual patients).

There may be other people in the meeting, such as

- radiographers (specialist in taking X-rays, scans, ultrasounds etc.)
- other doctors and nurses who work with the team.

After the MDT meeting, the discussion will be noted in the Health Care Record and you will be contacted. If you are invited for a clinic appointment, you may wish to bring a relative or friend with you for support and to help with remembering information.

Cancer Centres and Units

Salisbury District Hospital is a Cancer Unit in Gynaecology, and sees patients referred from their GP with symptoms which could suggest a cancer diagnosis. Once a strong suspicion of, or diagnosis of cancer has been made, your case will be discussed with the local Gynaecology Cancer Centre.

For most patients this will be Poole Hospital, but for some it will be Southampton General Hospital or the Bristol/Bath Hospitals.

Poole have their weekly MDT on a Friday morning and if your case is discussed there you can expect a plan by Monday of the following week. Some patients will have their treatment or further investigations here in Salisbury.

Some patients will need to be seen by the Consultant Gynaecologist in Poole for a decision on treatment who has some clinics in Salisbury on Monday mornings, so you may be seen then. Otherwise you will be seen at Poole Hospital.

