

## Breast Care Nursing Service

### Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio tape or computer disk, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please telephone the PALS desk on 01271 314090.

The breast care nursing service provides support information and education for patients and their carers/family on breast cancer and breast conditions generally. The breast care nurses aim to be present to support patients during investigations and at time of diagnosis.

We act as key workers for those affected by breast cancer and support them from point of diagnosis throughout treatment and beyond. We are based at North Devon District Hospital in Barnstaple. We run clinics in the outpatient department.

Breast cancer surgery is undertaken at the North Devon District Hospital in Barnstaple with the exception of major plastic reconstructive surgery, which is done in Exeter.

The nurses will also see breast patients admitted at other times to offer specific support should it be required.

### We offer our patients

- Emotional/Psychological support
- New cancer and benign results clinic
- Post surgery results clinic
- Wound assessment
- Pre and post operative assessment/counseling
- Seroma aspiration (drawing off fluid)
- Follow-up support as needed
- Provision and fitting of specialist breast care products including advice on bras and fitting of full and partial breast form (prosthesis)
- Liaison with GPs, other nurses and local lingerie suppliers and self-help groups
- Provide information about national and local support groups
- Run 2 moving forward events each year (6 monthly)

- Health need assessments at 6 weeks and 6 months
- Onward referrals e.g. hospice, lymphoedema services, Macmillan counsellor or anxiety and depression service.

## Who are we?

The Specialist Breast Care Nurses are:

**Karen Hillman, Amy Barrow and Claire Herlihy**

## Where are we?

We are based in The Pod, NDDH, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 3ES

## How to contact us

We are available Mondays to Fridays, 8 am to 4 pm.

**You can contact us directly for an appointment by:**

- Telephone 01271 322577 and ask for the breast care nurse, or
- Leaving a message on our 24-hour answerphone 01271 349115

### **PALS**

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or e-mail [ndht.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ndht.pals@nhs.net). You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

## Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Care Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at [www.careopinion.org.uk](http://www.careopinion.org.uk).

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