

## Role of the cancer of unknown primary (CUP) clinical nurse specialist

### Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at [ndht.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ndht.pals@nhs.net).

### What the service offers

This leaflet explains how the cancer of unknown primary (CUP) clinical nurse specialist (CNS) can help you and your family.

With your agreement, the CUP CNS will act as your key worker providing support, information and advice. The nurse's role is to co-ordinate your care and be a familiar face at the hospital who you can call on when needed.

The CUP CNS works closely with the team of doctors and nurses on the wards and in the outpatient clinics.

The nurse can:

- Give information about the tests you may need and discuss what they involve
- Discuss your diagnosis and results, providing written information to back up what you have been told
- Provide emotional support and links with other professionals in the community for ongoing support at home, such as GPs, district nurses, hospice services, Care Direct (who can offer equipment and home care options to help stay independent) and the Depression and Anxiety Service
- A referral can be made to the Macmillan Cancer Care Counselling Team which is based in the hospital if you would like
- Give information and advice about treatment options
- Provide a link for possible financial support
- Liaise with other professionals in the hospital
- Offer appointments in the nurse-led outpatient clinic
- Ongoing follow-up support as needed

When patients and/or their families/carers have left the hospital, they often have questions or need things to be explained further. The CNS is available to help at this time. If the CNS is unable to answer your questions, they can put you in touch with someone who can.

## Who's who?

The CUP clinical nurse specialists are part of a team of people involved in your care. You will meet some team members but others will be working in the background to help gather information for your treatment.

Other members of the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) involved in your care, who you may meet include consultant physicians, consultant surgeons, radiologists, histopathologists, oncologists and in some cases the palliative care team. If you are unsure what the roles of these professionals are, please ask.

## Where service is provided

The CUP nurses are also the Acute Oncology Nurses and are based on Seamoor Unit, Level 1, North Devon District Hospital.

The service is covered:

Monday – Friday, 8am – 6pm

You can contact the nurses on **01271 311579** (Seamoor Unit reception desk).

If the nurses are unavailable, please leave your details and brief message with the Seamoor Unit reception team and the nurses will get back in touch with you.

Or

Call the main switchboard on **01271 322577** and ask for the CUP CNS to be bleeped on **240**.

## Further information

Cancer of Unknown Primary – Macmillan Booklet MAC11689

<https://be.macmillan.org.uk/be/p-308-understanding-cancer-of-unknown-primary.aspx>

### 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 email [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).

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust  
Raleigh Park, Barnstaple  
Devon EX31 4JB  
Tel. 01271 322577  
[www.northdevonhealth.nhs.uk](http://www.northdevonhealth.nhs.uk)

© Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust  
This leaflet was designed by the Communications Department.  
Tel: 01271 313970 / email: [ndht.contactus@nhs.net](mailto:ndht.contactus@nhs.net)