

Breast Care Nurses, Churchill Hospital

Information about the placement

All breast cancer patients should leave the hospital following a diagnosis of breast cancer with the telephone contact details of their named key worker, usually the Specialist Nurses (SNs)

As far as possible, Specialist Nurses should be present during consultations when bad news is being broken and therefore provide support to screening, symptomatic and oncology clinics.

The Specialist Nurse is the main point of contact between the patient and the team and can and should act as an advocate for the patient.

Nurse led services provided by the SN team

- Electronic Health Needs Assessment (EHNA)
- Surgical discussion which includes an EHNA
- Nurse-led preparation for discharge which includes an EHNA
- Seroma service
- Ad hoc seroma aspiration can be booked via the SNs

Prosthetics service

- On discharge, post simple mastectomy, patients are fitted with a soft prosthesis
- Patients are advised to self-refer to the SN team when they are ready for prosthesis fitting
- Patients are given practical advice about swimming costumes and bras etc.
- Further refits are to be carried out by a qualified prosthetics fitter

Implant inflation

- Patient undergoing two stage implant-based reconstruction will have a tissue expander placed at initial surgery
- Inflation of the implant is performed by SN in discussion with the surgeon who is responsible for the care of the patient
- Other services include post-operative wound review and pre-operative discussion of planned surgery

The Metastatic Breast Cancer Nursing Team

All metastatic breast cancer patients discussed in the Metastatic MDT will be allocated a key worker and will receive the contact details of the team. The team is available, as far as possible, during oncology consultations to support the patient especially when breaking bad news or altering treatment.

The team aims to provide:

- A single point of contact
- Electronic Health Needs Assessment
- Emotional support
- Information about treatments for secondary breast cancer
- Advice about symptoms, treatment side effects and their management
- A link with other staff and services
- Advice about benefits and sign posting to relevant support agencies

Contact details

Email: breastspecialistnurses@ouh.nhs.uk

Location

Oxford Breast Imaging Centre, Level 0, Churchill Hospital