

## Breast Clinical Nurse Specialist Service

### 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 [rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net](mailto:rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net).

The Breast Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) 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 and other members of the team that would be involved in your care
- Provide information about national and local support groups

- We hold 4-monthly moving-forward events
- Health Need Assessments depending on where you are in your treatment
- Onward referrals e.g. hospice, lymphoedema services, Macmillan counsellor or anxiety and depression service.

## Who are we?

The Breast team are:

**Claire Herlihy, Amanda Disney, Amy Barrow, Karen Hillman, Pippa Clifton and Abi Osborne (Assistant Practitioner)**

## Where are we?

We are based in The Pod, North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 4JB

## 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

We are in clinic a lot of the time so we may not get back to you until the following day.

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## 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 [rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net](mailto:rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net). You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

## Have your say

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation 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.

Tell us about your experience of our services. Share your feedback on the Care Opinion website [www.careopinion.org.uk](http://www.careopinion.org.uk).

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