

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.

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.

