What is the role of the Head and Neck Nurse Specialist?

The Head and Neck Nurse Specialist post for Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust was appointed in the summer of 2001 to strengthen the existing service provided to patients with head and neck and thyroid cancer, their families and carers.

- To provide information and support to patients with head and neck cancer, their relatives and carers
- To provide physical, psychological, social and emotional support from the time of diagnosis onwards
- To act as a point of contact for patients, relatives and healthcare professionals (for example the social worker, dietician or speech therapist involved in care)
- To act as a link between care in hospital and at home, providing on-going specialist support and information
- To visit patients with head and neck cancer within the hospital or home setting to give specialist advice, support and education
- To teach and support others involved in the care of the patient with head and neck cancer (for example ward staff and community nurses)
- To liaise with colleagues in Exeter (the regional centre) if transfer of care is required
- To ensure a high standard of care is provided to patients with head and neck cancers

Who can be seen by the Head and Neck Nurse Specialist?

Any patient prediagnosis and with a newly diagnosed or previous head and neck cancer, including those patients diagnosed with a thyroid cancer.

Who can refer you to the Head and Neck Nurse Specialist?

- Your Ear, Nose and Throat and Maxillofacial Consultant, Thyroid Surgeon.
- Your General Practitioner (G.P),
- Your Community Nurse,
- The ward staff in hospital,
- OR MORE IMPORTANTLY... you as the patient.

How do I make a referral?

Referrals to the Head and Neck Nurse Specialist are accepted directly by telephone, in writing or in person.

The Head and Neck Specialist can be contacted between 9am and 5pm from Monday to Friday. The direct telephone number is: 01823 344111.

There is a message facility for out-of-hours calls.

Alternatively, if you wish to speak to someone in the absence of the Head and Neck Nurse Specialist please contact Blake Ward on: 01823 342023.

The address for the Head and Neck Nurse Specialists is:

Jo Greedy/Jo Dauncey
c/o Ward 9,
Musgrove Park Hospital
Taunton TA1 5DA

We also carry a bleep (2300) via main switchboard 01823 333444.
Head and Neck Nurse Specialist

A specialist nursing service for patients with head and neck and thyroid cancer