

Breast Care Nurse Service

Information for patients

Edinburgh Breast Unit, Western General Hospital (WGH)
St John's Hospital, Livingston (SJH)

Introduction

The purpose of this leaflet is to provide you with information about our breast care nursing team and what services and support they can offer you throughout your diagnosis. It will explain how to contact your breast care nurse (BCN) and when you may need to. It also offers some alternative contact numbers/web links that you may find useful.

Our service

The Edinburgh Breast Unit at the Western General Hospital and at St John's Hospital has a team of specialist nurses who have experience and knowledge in breast cancer and are here to support you through your diagnosis, treatment options and end of treatment care. They can help you understand any test results that have been discussed with you and your consultant, support you emotionally and direct you towards additional support services that may benefit you and/or your family. Your care will be allocated to one of our Breast Care Nurses.

Your Breast Care Nurse is

Our Breast Care Nurses work as a team and there will be occasions where you will see or speak to another Breast Care Nurse within this team.

When should I phone the Breast Care Nurse?

You can contact the Breast Care Nurses for advice on any breast cancer-related issues, for example:

- Questions about your treatment plan
- Help to understand more about test results or outcomes
- Information about your medication
- Advice on possible side-effects from hormone treatments
- Possible new breast symptoms.

Contacting our Service

The Breast Care Nursing Service (BCN) is available Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm and you can telephone the team during this time. The BCNs **do not** operate a drop-in service, however if you would like to see your BCN, please phone to arrange an appointment. When you telephone our service, you may speak to our administrator or be asked to leave a message on our answering machine. Please ensure you leave your name and the name of your BCN, your date of birth, telephone number and a short description of why you are calling. Leaving this information for us enables us to return your call more efficiently. The Breast Care Nurses can be contacted on the numbers below.

Western General Hospital - **0131 537 1621** or St John's Hospital - **01506 524 047**

You should still contact your GP for any non breast cancer-related issues, for example if you:

- Feel unwell with a cough, cold or flu
- Need medical assessment of non breast-related issues
- Are unable to work and require a sick note/fit note.

Chemotherapy

If you are having Chemotherapy, the Breast Care Nurses will still be available to support you with any breast cancer related queries that you may have, but during this time they will not be in regular contact with you. During your Chemotherapy, your main point of contact will be your outpatient chemotherapy unit. If you experience any side-effects from your treatment, or feel unwell, you should telephone the Cancer Treatment Helpline for advice on **08009 177 711**.

This service operates **24 hours a day**. Please do not contact the BCNs, as this will cause unnecessary delay in getting you the correct treatment.

Useful contact numbers

For chemotherapy appointments

Ward 1, Western General Hospital - 0131 537 1878

Oncology outpatient unit, St John's Hospital - 01506 522 119

For wound problems or infections

Breast Clinic, Western General Hospital - 0131 537 2632

Breast Care Nurses, St John's Hospital - 01506 524047

For post-operative seroma (fluid collection)

Western General Hospital

Emma Childs/Fiona Geddes - 07810 152 666 / 07771 947 683

St John's Hospital

Breast Care Nurses - 01506 524047

For Radiotherapy appointments

Western General Hospital - 0131 537 3329

Useful Web Links

www.breastcancercare.org.uk/home

www.macmillan.org.uk

www.maggiescentres.org

www.scan.scot.nhs.uk

Your Cancer Information

Grade	<input type="text"/>	Type	<input type="text"/>	Surgeon	<input type="text"/>
ER	<input type="text"/>	HER2	<input type="text"/>	Lymph Nodes	<input type="text"/>

For a copy of this leaflet in a larger print, Braille or your community language, please telephone the department where your treatment will take place:

Breast unit Admin telephone (WGH) **0131 537 1611** or (SJH) **01506 524047**.