P

**Case study**

Name: Sharon Savory

Job title: Macmillan Specialist Lung Cancer Nurse

**What role/ profession are you in?**

I became interested in my current role when I got to know the Macmillan Lung Cancer nurses who visited the patients undergoing CT (Computed Tomography scan) X-ray guided lung biopsies on my ward. I was very interested in their role and the support they offered to the patients being investigated for lung cancer. The role is many and varied and I have now been here ten years and I love it as much now as on my first day.

It is different every day but the beauty of being a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) is it is all about the patient and the difference you can make to them and their families. To become a Clinical Nurse Specialist you need at least your degree and for our role some previous cancer care experience is seen as highly desired. It is an emotionally challenging job but it also has the reward of great job satisfaction we get to make a difference to patients’ lives every day.

**What did your early career look like?**

I did my Pupil Nurse (SEN – State Enrolled Nurse) training initially, and then when I had qualified two years later converted to a Registered General Nurse. I have worked in medicine, day surgery, general surgery, orthopaedics and now Macmillan specialist lung cancer nurse.

**What is a typical day as a Registered Nurse and Ward Manager?**

First thing I do is check the answer phones for patient messages.

Meet and greet up to 5 patients between 8am-9am who are having a CT scan for possible lung cancer. My role completes a triage assessment and then calls them the next day with the plan or outcome. I attend a triage meeting with the next steps team and Respiratory Consultant to review the previous days CT patient’s results.

I do a telephone clinic daily whereby I call patients undergoing treatment to check they are ok. Supportive care continues with regular telephone calls to ensure they are ok and deal with any problems as and when they occur. Three times a week we attend the two week wait clinic, where we see newly diagnosed cancer patients and explain our role and become their key worker.

I attend a multi-disciplinary team meeting on a Friday morning which is where a range of roles come together and where we are the patients advocate and voice.

We do monthly support groups in various locations as well as arrange lunches, day trips etc. where these are part of the patient support and care plan. I attend Oncology (cancer) follow up clinics whereby I see patients at the end of treatment and complete a holistic needs assessment.

**Do you have any words of encouragement for anyone thinking about a career in health and social care?**

Many colleagues that I work with talk about our NHS family

I couldn’t be prouder of the dedicated people that I work with – the work is rewarding and a genuine privilege.