

Launched in September 2014, the Cancer Nursing Partnership (CNP) is a unique co-operation between 13 organisations, representing tens of thousands of nurses, which aims to support improvements in cancer care. Specifically, the CNP's goals are to:

- reach a common understanding of the priorities and interests of the participating organisations and individuals, particularly in relation to the Recovery Package;
- identify where there might be opportunities for collaboration between participating organisations to increase awareness and adoption of the Recovery Package; and
- agree on some early interventions and next steps in developing a collaborative working process, with a realistic resourcing strategy to support it.

## Macmillan's assessment and care plan folder

Many of you probably use (or have used) the Macmillan assessment and care plan folder and pads as a part of the Recovery Package. The folder was first developed in 2012 and Macmillan now wish to review and update it. If you have experience of using these resources, Macmillan would welcome your input on how they could be made easier to use, and would be grateful if you could please complete this **short survey**. Please feel free to forward this request onto any nursing colleagues you think could also provide their input.

## Recovery Package

### Work and cancer: the importance of early conversations



**When questions come up about work and cancer, many health professionals feel ill-equipped to deal with them confidently. Research has shown that the earlier these conversations take place, the better the work outcome for the person affected by cancer.**

While not everyone diagnosed with cancer may want to or be able to return to work, those who do can face some difficult decisions. One of the biggest challenges is a lack of information on how cancer may affect their ability to work and where to go for further support.

Professionals play an important role in initiating discussions about work with people affected by cancer, particularly early on in the cancer journey. You don't need to be an expert to start a

conversation about work, and it doesn't have to be time-consuming. Macmillan has developed free resources to help professionals ask the right questions and direct people to the right information.

Visit [be.macmillan.org.uk](http://be.macmillan.org.uk) to order a *Work support route guide*. Further resources for professionals and patients can also be found at this link.

As a healthcare professional, you may also use holistic needs assessments – and work may be one of the issues that people raise. When developing a care plan, this guide will help you to direct them to the right information.

**i** If you're involved in the implementation of the Recovery Package, please send us any examples of best practice to [CNP@macmillan.org.uk](mailto:CNP@macmillan.org.uk)

# The British Association of Urology Nurses

The British Association of Urology Nurses (BAUN) is proud to have been a member of the Cancer Nursing Partnership since its inception. BAUN is a registered charity that aims to promote and maintain the highest standards in the practice and development of urological nursing and patient care.

BAUN provides information and a network of support to professionals working in urological nursing. Being a member of BAUN offers opportunities to participate in the development of the profession and improve patient care. BAUN's goals are:

- to improve the care of urological patients in all healthcare settings;
- to organise conferences and study days to help educate urological nurses;
- to provide educational materials, including guidelines, websites, a newsletter and a peer review journal, for BAUN members;



Delegates at the BAUN conference

- to provide personal development opportunities for BAUN members through involvement in running the association;
- to influence the urological healthcare agenda; and
- to work collaboratively with other organisations to the benefit of patients.

BAUN actively supports adoption of the Recovery Package and is committed to promoting it among members and the wider urology community. Aspects of successfully implementing the package

is incorporated in all relevant education events and materials.

This month's **BAUN Annual Conference** will include a session on 'Living with and beyond cancer', and our soon-to-be-launched patient held record for bladder cancer refers to all four elements of the national survivorship initiative.

**Next month's Partner Focus will feature the Lymphoma Association's Nurse Forum**

## Consequences of cancer treatment: speech

**Changes in speech following head and neck cancer treatment are mainly associated with surgery. The extent of the change depends on the type of resection and whether there is an intra-oral flap. Regardless of their donor site, all flaps are insensate, immobile and non-secretory. This results in speech distortions related to impaired movement and sensory feedback. If a flap tethers the tongue, it can result in further speech distortions.**

Any surgery involving the tongue and/or palate will affect speech production. If the tongue tip is removed, this is exacerbated and speech sounds such

as 't' and 'd', or any sounds requiring elevation of the tongue tip, will be distorted. People are taught to use close approximations to those sounds using other articulators or other parts of their tongue. If the lateral tongue is resected, this is often accompanied by air loss which can result in 'slushy' speech, until the person learns to compensate by using a different tongue placement to.

Palatal resections can result in air loss through the nasal cavity, leading to nasalised speech. Flaps and/or prostheses can mitigate the air loss, but cannot eliminate it because of their immobile nature. Despite the little intervention available for this, most people do adapt their speech rates in

an effort to improve intelligibility.

The majority of people with post-surgery speech changes do regain functional intelligibility by using compensatory strategies to facilitate their communication. For more information, please [click here](#)

 **To see our full list of upcoming events, click here**

**Did you find the Monthly Bulletin helpful? Please email any comments and suggestions to [CNP@macmillan.org.uk](mailto:CNP@macmillan.org.uk)**