



Cancer Pathway Navigator Case Study

Wessex Cancer Alliance has funded a number of Pathway Navigators in our Cancer teams. These new roles are being piloted to support the delivery of the 28 day Faster Diagnosis Standard (FDS) within secondary care.



Name: Anastasia

Age: 23

Role: Prostate Cancer Pathway Navigator, University Hospital Southampton

Time in post: 10 months

Background

Anastasia joined cancer services in 2019 without specific qualifications or experience and worked initially as a booking clerk and then as a secretary within the urology department. Anastasia was keen to work more closely with patients so applied for the Pathway Navigator role.

Current Knowledge and Skills

Anastasia's focus is supporting the patient to move through the first part of the pathway as quickly and as seamlessly as possible. To achieve this some of Anastasia's tasks include tracking MRI Scans and ensuring they are reviewed daily, booking biopsy and telephone clinic appointments, tracking and organising the waiting list, linking with the wider MDT to update on patient plans, answering the telephone for the team.

Anastasia is present in clinic, supporting the nurses and typing up letters afterwards. She has also taken on the running of the precision point telephone review clinic freeing up nurse time.

Whilst the Pathway Navigator is not intended to be a clinical* role, the team structure and Anastasia's interest have enabled her to train in some clinical skills including taking bloods and fitting catheters.

Goals

Short term: Anastasia is enrolled on the Principles of Cancer Care training programme funded through ACCEND and is enjoying the breadth of learning to support her Navigator role

Long term: Anastasia's is keen to further develop her clinical skills as the role allows. She would also like to start working towards her care certificate.

Impact

Anastasia's line manager told us "Anastasia has not only helped streamline the prostate service to reduce wait times from biopsy by taking over the bookings for 2WW prostate biopsies, but she has also helped reduce the workload of the prostate nurse practitioner team to free them up for additional clinical activities. She takes pressure off the urology unit by assisting with prostate biopsies as well as auditing the outcomes for each patient that undergo the procedure. She is a key point of contact for patients during the diagnostic pathway carrying the prostate phone. She helps prep clinic lists and screen referrals to ensure all relevant pre-requisite information is available from primary care. She is a well valued member of staff and an asset to the team"

**Taking on clinical skills is not an expectation or a requirement for the Pathway Navigator roles*