



The Role of The Macmillan Nurse

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Historical Perspectives of Macmillan

- 1970's Macmillan Nurse posts established.
- 1987 Macmillan Service established in Grampian – one nurse – Moray.



Historical Perspectives of Macmillan

- Today 27 Macmillan Nurse posts in Scotland.
- 1500 Total Macmillan post-holders in Scotland - 4 in Moray.
- Macmillan also offer staff educational training to develop and improve knowledge and skills in patients with cancer and/or palliative care needs.



Role of the Macmillan Nurse

- To complement and support the work of the Primary Healthcare Team in the care of patients with cancer and/or palliative care needs.
- Approximately 5% caseload are patients with Non-Malignant disease.
- Potential for more with Living and Dying well.



Role of the Macmillan Nurse

- To provide emotional and psychological support for patients and their families.
- To advise on symptom control.
- To advise on finances working closely with Department for Works and Pensions and Macmillan CAB partnership.



Role of the Macmillan Nurse

- To provide educational training and support for nursing and medical staff.
- To provide bereavement support for relatives of deceased patients.
- Equipment lending service.
- Information service on cancer and palliative care.



Principles of Palliative Care (W.H.O., 1990)

- Affirms life; regards dying as a natural process.
- Neither hastens or postpones death.
- Provides relief from pain and other symptoms.
- Integrates the psychological and spiritual aspects of patient care.



Principles of Palliative Care (W.H.O., 1990)

- Offers a support system to help patients live as actively as possible until death.
- Offers a support system to help the family cope during the patients illness and in their bereavement.



Hypothetical Scenario

- G.P refers a new patient – for support and symptom management.
- Joe Bloggs, 63yrs diagnosed in past few weeks with and inoperable prostatic cancer and metastatic bone disease.
- Joe lives at home in a 2 storey house with his wife Jane. They have 2 married children and 4 grandchildren.



Hypothetical Scenario

- 1st assessment of Joe at home. Full assessment finds.
- Emotional and tearful on discussing diagnosis. Jane also very emotional. Very supportive network of family friends and church.
- Lumbar backpain.
- Financial issues.



Hypothetical Scenario

- Allow time to talk using open questions. Joe discusses diagnosis, prognosis and death.
- Explain about potential long prognosis with prostate cancer and bone secondaries.
- Joe feels reassured but consider psychologist if not the case.



Hypothetical Scenario

- Addressing lumbar backpain. Discuss with G.P. and/or consultant.
- Analgesia, potential for radiotherapy.
- Finding the stairs in the house a struggle and tires easily in shower.
- Refer to O.T. for full assessment including stair lift.



Hypothetical Scenario

- Addressing finances. Refer to Macmillan Citizens Advice Bureau Partnership worker.
- Attendance allowance under special rules not appropriate.



Hypothetical Scenario

- Joe has radiotherapy treatment disease well controlled with hormone therapy.
- Discharged from Macmillan service.



Hypothetical Scenario

- G.P. re-refers 4 yrs later, Joe presents with a rising PSA and abdominal discomfort.
- Investigations find recurrent locally advanced disease in pelvis.
- Has chemotherapy but disease does not respond.
- Joe is tired and frail has generalised discomfort and hip pain.



Hypothetical Scenario

- Further single fraction of radiotherapy to metastatic lesion in hip.
- Condition deteriorates quickly and Joe gets less able to mobilise.
- Refer to The Oaks for O.T. and physiotherapy assessment for further aids.
- Support wife and family refer to care managers for care input.
- Discuss preferred place of death.



Hypothetical Scenario

- Regular communication with G.P., D.N. and Palliative care consultant.
- Joe unable to swallow.
- Medication given via subcutaneous infusion.
- Joe dies peacefully at home with all family present.



Hypothetical Scenario

- Bereavement visit to Jane.
- Jane continues to be well supported by family, friends and church members.
- Re-refer to Macmillan Citizens Advice Bureau Partnership Worker for bereavement benefits.
- If complex grief refer to CRUSE.



The Team

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