The role of the Gastroenterology Specialist Nurse Practitioner (GSNP), is to co-ordinate and manage your investigations and subsequent treatment planning. We will do this from the start of your diagnosis and throughout your treatment period, while you are a patient of either Professor A. Morris or Dr H. Smart.

A large part of the role is to ensure that you and your family are kept fully informed and you understand what is happening at each stage of your treatment, and to support you at all times.

As a patient you will come into contact with many health care professionals, who will assess and give advice about your treatment. It is important that you understand the process and treatment offered and planned in order to be able to give informed consent. As your delegated nurse practitioner we will be available to reinforce and explain any advice given to you. By providing continuity of care and careful explanation, we hope to reduce the potential of fragmented uncoordinated care and thus prevent anxiety to you and your family.

Following your diagnosis you will be offered several investigations to help your Consultant to plan your treatment. The GSNP will be available to co-ordinate these tests as quickly as possible. If you require hospital admission they can arrange this to prevent delays and distress to you or your family. You will be given contact numbers to allow you to contact the GSNP Monday to Friday from 9am-5pm.

Throughout your illness the GSNP will co-ordinate with all the health care professionals involved in your care to ensure you receive the highest standard of care. They will be available to support you with treatment decisions and ensure you have a good understanding of what you are being told at every stage of your illness. The co-ordination of your care extends to your health professionals at home such as your GP and District Nurses.

The GSNP have contacts with many organisations that may be of help to you during and after your treatment, such as voluntary care organisations and complimentary care. If you have any concerns about yourself or your family, do share them, as they may be able to help or put you in touch with an organisation who can.
During your stay in hospital, the GSNP will be involved with your care and if you need to speak with them, the ward staff will contact them for you. However, we do encourage you and your family to communicate with the staff on the ward looking after you, as they have the responsibility to care for you while you are an inpatient.

Once you are at home, if you have changes in your symptoms and need advice you will be able to contact the GSNP directly for advice and support. You will have had many discussions relevant to symptom control and how you need to seek advice.

You may be invited to take part in a focus group meeting to discuss your views on the care you received during your illness. This would be voluntary and its purpose is to improve our service for all patients in our care. It will help us to observe our practice from a patient’s viewpoint and put into practice changes as appropriate.

We can be contacted on:

Direct Line
Tel: 0151 706 2653

Una Duffy
Tel: 0151 706 2000 and ask for bleep 4084

Karen Gowland
Tel: 0151 706 2000 and ask for bleep 4517

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Date: May 2004
Review date: September 2008

This leaflet is available in large print, computer disc, Braille, audiocassette and other languages on request.