Welcome to the Barts Cancer Centre

The Barts Cancer Centre is a large and innovative centre which offers excellent opportunities for all nurses wanting a career in cancer nursing. As Director of Nursing for St Bartholomew’s Hospital, I feel privileged to be able to influence the development of the centre and the teams working here. We already have motivated and excellent nurses working with us and as new nurses join, we want to support their integration into their team and into cancer nursing to deliver a high standard of patient care.

My primary objective for the nursing workforce is to ensure excellent training and education for cancer nurses to become experts. Our vision is to become a leading Education Academy for Cancer Nursing over the next five years. I believe that clinical education is the core component to equip excellent nurses with the confidence to lead and deliver care to a high quality as part of the multi-professional team. We have an active education team that commissions a high percentage of specialist courses and also designs and hosts in-house courses in a number of cancer conditions or specialties.

The Barts Cancer Centre employs 400 nursing staff and offers career opportunities in haematology, oncology and medical oncology subspecialties, including rotational programmes through a number of specialty areas, detailed within this brochure.

Staff will be actively encouraged to develop and take promotion when they are able. We also value and support our nurses who prefer to remain in the same role, ensuring continuing educational and professional development is provided to enable them to develop as an individual. Team building and development is important. We ensure regular team days occur to allow time to influence and re-design department procedures and policies to improve care and patient experience, and also contribute and engage in the planning of evolving models designed to deliver high quality care.

The Barts Cancer Centre is an exciting opportunity for nurses at all levels to gain expert experience and belong to a new team focused on improving and embedding a service which will become World Class. I welcome you to come and join our team and work with us on building and establishing an excellent hospital for cancer patients in East and Central London.

With kind regards,

Louise Crosby
Director of Nursing and Governance
St Bartholomew’s Hospital
About Barts Cancer Centre

The Barts Cancer Centre at St Bartholomew’s Hospital is a leading treatment centre for both solid tumour oncology and haematology in the centre of London. We provide an integrated service to over one and a half million people from across East London the South and East of England, and act as a tertiary referral centre for some specialist national services. Barts Cancer Centre is associated with Queen Mary University College London and has a significant medical research practice.

The Barts Cancer Centre is housed in the newly refurbished King George V building, which opened in its entirety in 2015.

St Bartholomew’s Hospital is a specialist hospital which houses the Cancer Centre, Barts Heart Centre and specialist endocrine services.

The Cancer Centre is made up of 4 co-located inpatient wards 3 day treatment units the radiotherapy department and surgical cancer services.

Barts Cancer Centre is part of UCLPartners, the UK’s largest academic health science network and is a member of London Cancer which is a partnership of NHS, academic, charity and cancer specialists dedicated to providing expert, compassionate care for every patient.
Barts then and now

St Bartholomew’s Hospital, also known simply as Barts and later more formally as The Royal Hospital of St Bartholomew, is a hospital located at Smithfield in London. It is the oldest hospital in Europe, having been founded in 1123 and is the oldest in the United Kingdom still occupying its original site.

Today it forms part of Barts Health NHS Trust. St Bartholomew’s Hospital has existed on the same site since its founding in the 12th century, surviving both the Great Fire of London and the Blitz. In 1843, St Bartholomew’s Hospital Medical College was established to train medics.

The Hospital is centrally located near to Barbican, Blackfriars, Farringdon and St. Paul’s tube stations as well as a range of bus services. Blackfriars, City Thameslink and Liverpool Street are the nearest train stations. Minutes away from St. Paul’s Cathedral and situated close to the west end of London the area provides an eclectic mix of restaurants, bars, retail and much more.

My Story
Rebekah Scholes
Staff Nurse

I’ve never known what it was exactly that drew me towards a career in nursing. But since qualifying and working at Barts there is nothing else I could ever see myself doing.

I believe that by choosing to come to Barts after qualifying was one of the best choices I have made. I have been supported and got to work in an amazing team which provides excellent patient centred care. I have also been sent on many study days to help solidify my training and become a more competent and confident nurse. I have found a real passion in caring for patients with cancer and feel that Barts is the best place to be to provide outstanding care and to further my career in oncology nursing.
What we do

Oncology Services

At the Barts Cancer Centre we care for a wide range of oncology patients both as inpatients and outpatients. We have patient services which include the solid tumour service where patients have:

- surgical treatment
- chemotherapy
- radiotherapy
- targeted biological therapies

We have specialist services for:

- testicular cancer
- ocular cancer
- neuro oncology
- neuro endocrine tumours
- melanoma

as well as the more common cancers:

- lung
- urology
- breast
- upper and lower GI
- head & neck
- gynaecological cancers

Our patients receive a wide range of research treatment and are routinely given chemotherapy, targeted biological therapy, radiotherapy and often stem cell transplantation.

We have a huge focus on the patient’s experience of their cancer and their treatment and try to make this as good an experience as it is possible to be. To achieve this we work closely with our specialist Allied Health Professional colleagues. Each ward works closely with our physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy and Dietetic Colleagues.

We work closely with MacMillan, who can provide patients and staff with support and education and we have a MacMillan cancer information centre in the hospital. We are also looking forward to welcoming a Maggie’s Centre to the site in 2016.

We have some breast surgery, including breast reconstruction and ocular surgical services on site. However a large proportion of our surgery is done across the Trust with patients coming to the Cancer Centre for their on-going oncological management.

The haemato-oncology service at the Barts Cancer Centre is a large service with 2 inpatient wards and 1 day unit facility. Our patients are receiving treatment for leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloproliferative disorders where we have a large myeloma practice.
Our facilities

The patients with solid tumour cancer are treated mostly on ward 5A, 5B, the chemotherapy day units on the 7th floor and in the radiotherapy department. We see a variety of patients at all stages of their cancer journey, from diagnostics, through to active treatment and then onto supportive and end of life care if necessary. We work closely as a multidisciplinary team where enormous experience can be gained in caring for patients requiring symptomatic control, management and control of side effects, as well as those receiving active treatment with chemotherapy and targeted therapies. Most patients receiving treatment are treated as an outpatient and are cared for in either bays of 4, rooms of 2, or in single rooms. Each room or bay has its own bathroom facilities area. Every patient has their own fridge and a good amount of space around their bed area.

Ward 5A

The ward has 22 beds and specialises in care of (mainly male) patients with all range of cancers, but particularly the care of patients with prostate, testicular, lung and head and neck cancer. Ward 5A also cares for patients with ocular cancer and is one of only 3 centres in the country to care for ocular oncology patients.

The ward has a reputation for excellent standards of care and is often chosen to pilot key projects. It is also one of the few areas where staff can develop critical care skills as the ward cares for patients on inotropic support. 5A is a busy but exciting environment and has a great team ethos throughout all members of staff.

Ward 5B

This ward has 16 beds and cares for (mainly women) patients with all range of cancers but particularly cares for women having surgery for breast cancer, including reconstruction, 5B and also cares for patients having radio-isotope treatment which requires them to be isolated in single rooms. Ward 5B is an excellent learning environment as you see all aspects of cancer treatment, from surgery, through to chemotherapy, radiotherapy and supportive and palliative care.

My Story

Elizabeth Somerville
Senior Sister, Ward 5B/Rahere Ward

I came to Barts as a Return to Practice Nurse in 2002 and have been here ever since. I was placed on Gordon Hamilton Fairley Ward (now Ward 5A) where I got tremendous support from Danny Lawrence, the Charge Nurse. After completing the Return to Practice Programme, I became a staff nurse on GHF ward and in 2006 became a band 6 Sister. In 2011 I took on the challenging role of CNS in Ocular Oncology (working between Barts and Moorfields) and then in 2014, wanting to move back to ward-based nursing, I was appointed Senior Sister on Ward 5B (formerly Rahere Ward). This role has been a steep learning curve for me, and 16 months on I am still learning, but enjoy working with a great team of nurses, doctors and allied health professionals who all aim to provide the best care for our patients.
Our Story

Andie Guy and Maresa Farrel,
Clinical Nurse Specialists/ Stem Cell Transplant Coordinators, Myeloma and Related Plasma Cell Disorders

We work together to combine the responsibilities of the CNS with those of a transplant coordinator. The role, which is unique to Barts works well and enables us to remain the keyworker for our patients throughout their entire care; and if relevant, this includes autologous or allogeneic stem cell transplant, or both.

Working closely together, we can ensure we give a high standard of care for our large and diverse patient caseload. Ours is a dynamic sub-speciality of Haematology-Oncology in which there have been many treatment advances in recent years and these have significantly changed the outlook for our patients. In turn, this has prompted us to propose, design and deliver changes in service delivery aimed at driving efficiency, promoting patient experience and indeed patient safety.

Dental complications are common among our patients and we successfully initiated a dental care pathway in collaboration with colleagues in restorative dentistry and oral surgery; Our patients now benefit from rapid access to specialised dentistry.

Between us we have a lot of experience of haemato-oncology and there are tasks that just cannot be handed to other nursing colleagues. Therefore, as CNS’s it is vital to ensure efficient time management including the identification of who should complete each task.

Maresa trained at Barts and has climbed the ladder here. She has received educational support including training to become a proficient apheresis operator and trainer and the attainment of her nursing degree. She has also presented at an international conference. Andie joined Barts three years ago, from a senior nursing background. This experiences was acknowledged at Barts and employed in preparing for external Peer Review and in nominating her to undertake the Patient Safety Officer Development Programme at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement in Boston. Andie is now undertaking the Level 7 Non-Medical Prescribing Course at KCL with the aim of further service development potential.
Haemato-Oncology Services

At Barts we have a large haemato-oncology practice. We have 2 inpatient wards, 5C and 5D, which both deliver stem cell transplantation. There is also a large and busy day unit service on 7A South.

Our Services:
- Leukaemia
- Aplastic Anaemia
- Lymphoma
- Myeloma
- Stem Cell Transplantation
- Apheresis

Ward 5C
This is a 16 bedded inpatient ward for patients who have acute haemato-oncology diseases. This is a new ward opened in 2015 and has side-rooms providing both a source of isolation and a degree of protective isolation. The ward specialises in the use of chemotherapy and biological therapies for the management of various haemato-oncology diseases. We also deliver high dose chemotherapy treatments and autologous and mini – allogeneic stem cell transplants.

Ward 5D
This is a 20 bedded heppa-filtered inpatient ward which specialises in ablative transplants and the management of acute leukemias and aplastic anaemias. Our inpatient haemato-oncology wards work very closely together and share the care of many patients.

These 2 haem-onc wards are acute wards which provide an interesting and exciting experience for nurses. Our nurses participate in the ward rotation programme, and go on to develop extended skills such as chemotherapy and stem cell infusion. We provide in-house study days to support the development our nurses who have core competencies to work towards. We routinely support our ward nurses to attend specialist haemato-oncology modules at partner institutions such as Kings College and the Royal Marsden.

Ward 7A Day Unit for Haemato-Oncology
This large day unit treats solid tumour and haemato-oncology and is one of our busiest wards, with up to 80 patients attending per day. We offer a range of treatments from blood products and supportive care to chemotherapy, and stem cell infusions. Our nursing team place peripheral intravenous central catheters and provide an apheresis service for our stem cell donors and patients undergoing autologous transplantation.

Many of our patients who have intensive treatment stay in our patient hostel, and they are managed as outpatients via the day unit. Our nurses provide a nurse led chemotherapy hotline service, and support our emergency walk-in patients. This day unit provides an excellent opportunity for staff to develop their knowledge and skills and is largely staffed by band 6 nurses.
Apheresis Service

Our nurse-led service coordinates our donor collections and provides emergency procedures for newly diagnosed patients. Our team of Clinical Nurse Specialists coordinate the work of our transplant patients in collaboration with the apheresis team. They ensure timely stem cell harvesting of our autologous patients.

Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs)

We employ 32 band 7 Clinical Nurse Specialists on site. Most tumour cancer types have their own Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) whose job it is to provide the patients with practical and emotional support throughout their cancer journey. The CNS teams support patients both in hospital and in the community and act as a key worker for patients. The CNSs are experts in their individual cancers and its treatment and are an excellent resource for staff and patients. Many of the CNSs have extended practice skills and deliver nurse-led clinics.

My Story

Katie Miles
Lymphoma Clinical Nurse Specialist

Hi my name is Katie, I joined the trust 4 years ago as a staff nurse on the Bodley Scott Haematology Day Unit. I moved down from Scotland 1½ years after qualifying to get experience of working in a large recognised London teaching hospital. At the time I had only ever had bank experiences of working on an oncology ward but I knew that this was the field I wanted to specialise in.

The team here at Barts have been so supportive and friendly, I fitted straight in and have loved every moment since. I have been very lucky in the opportunities I have been awarded and have learnt invaluable skills as a result of both education courses I have been on and the skilled team that I have worked with. As a staff nurse I was given the opportunity to rotate between the day unit and an inpatient stem cell transplant unit. I then became a junior sister on the haematology day unit where I developed my management skills and gained experiences at running an outpatient ward a couple of days a month. At first the thought scared me, but I was supported throughout and have developed both personally and professionally as a result. I was then lucky enough to undertake a year’s training post as a clinical nurse specialist, working closely with the Myeloma and Leukaemia CNSs, and helping to secure me the Lymphoma CNS job I have at the moment. I have loved every minute of my Barts journey and would recommend it as a place to come and work to every nurse, at any stage of their nursing career.
Research nursing

The Clinical Research Delivery Group (CDRG) is a team of qualified cancer trained nurses who are supported by clinical trials practitioners and assistants.

The cancer research nurses, in partnership with fellow members of the oncology research team, have responsibilities for coordinating all aspects of cancer research trials. This includes identification, enrolment, randomisation, screening, collection and preparation of biological samples, collection and input of trial data, and follow up of patients.

Members of the CRDG have specialised skills and knowledge relating to the conduct of clinical trials, the therapies and the relevant disease sites. They are able to enable patients to make informed choices concerning their involvement in clinical trials by providing advice and information and acting as the patient’s advocate.

My Story

My name is Emmanuella Sode I am one of the ward sisters working on Percival Pott Ward based on the third floor of the East Wing of St Bartholomew’s Hospital.

Percival Pott Ward is an eight bedded surgical day unit which provides nurse-led care for patient right from pre-assessment through to when they are discharged from the ward post operatively using a holistic approach.

Even though the ward only has eight beds, we sometimes care for up to twenty patients in a day. We provide care for patient from all departments in the trust such as medical, clinical, and ocular oncology. Patients will come to us pre operatively and if they are a day case, return to us. If their surgery requires them to stay a little longer then they will go from theatre to one of the inpatient wards (5A or 5B).

On a daily basis we welcome all our patients and their families on to the clean, calm environment of Percival Pott Ward as early as 07:00am with a big smile on our faces to help reduce any anxiety, ensuring patients are well prepared and calm before and after their surgery. We also ensure patients are fed and drink, fully recovered before being discharged home.

Apart from the patient care that we provide, their families are not left out. We also encourage students to learn patient surgical pathways during their placement to prepare them to be a good nurse at the end of their education.

We get excellent feedback from patients and their families which boosts our morale on a daily basis, and we liaise with the other departments and the senior team to ensure that we have a smooth patient flow.

I have worked in different cancer wards at St Bartholomew’s Hospital over the past ten years and have built a vast experience and knowledge base that helps me to care for patients on Percival Pott with compassion and empathy. We think fast and act fast.
Applying for roles at Barts Cancer Centre

As the service develops, we frequently recruit nursing staff at bands 5 and 6 level. We always advertise through the NHS jobs website. Please visit the link below to see our current nursing vacancies:

http://www.bartshealth.nhs.uk/work-with-us

If you would like further information about any of our vacancies, please contact our senior nursing team who will be happy to tell you more about the role and working at Barts Cancer Centre:

**Alison Thompson**  
Senior Nurse  
Alison.Thompson@bartshealth.nhs.uk

**Sarah Pearson**  
Senior Nurse  
Sarah.Pearson@bartshealth.nhs.uk

**Daniel Lawrence**  
Matron/Charge Nurse  
Daniel.Lawrence@bartshealth.nhs.uk