



# What's important to you?

## Cancer reviews in primary care: The role of practice nurses

Vicki Trim, Macmillan Project Manager. Transforming Care After Treatment (TCAT)

TRANSFORMING  
YOUR  
CANCER CARE

WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT

NHS  
SCOTLAND

NHS  
Lanarkshire

Edinburgh Napier  
UNIVERSITY

### Background

The landscape of cancer has changed and there are more people living with cancer than dying from it.

Traditionally, GPs carry out cancer care reviews but we wanted to test the feasibility and acceptability of practice nurses also taking on this role.

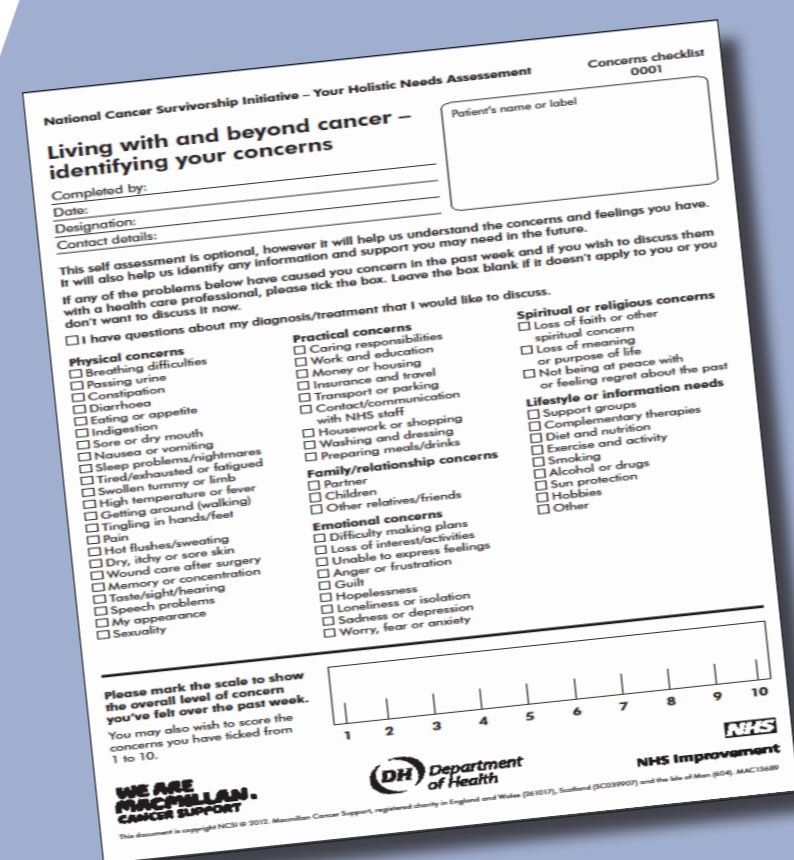
### Aims

Adopting person-centered cancer care reviews using a holistic needs assessment tool encourages people to highlight sources of support that are important to them.

Practice Nurses currently manage the routine follow-up of many long-term conditions, thus have transferable skills relevant to people affected by cancer facing the consequences of treatment and survivorship.



### Approach



Through Macmillan Transforming Care After Treatment (TCAT) funding, 9 GP Practices within Lanarkshire tested this innovative model using a Holistic Needs Assessment Tool - the Concerns Checklist and developed administration procedures.

Agenda set by person - Logan Practice, Wishaw

Person receives concerns checklist to allow time to consider what's important to them.

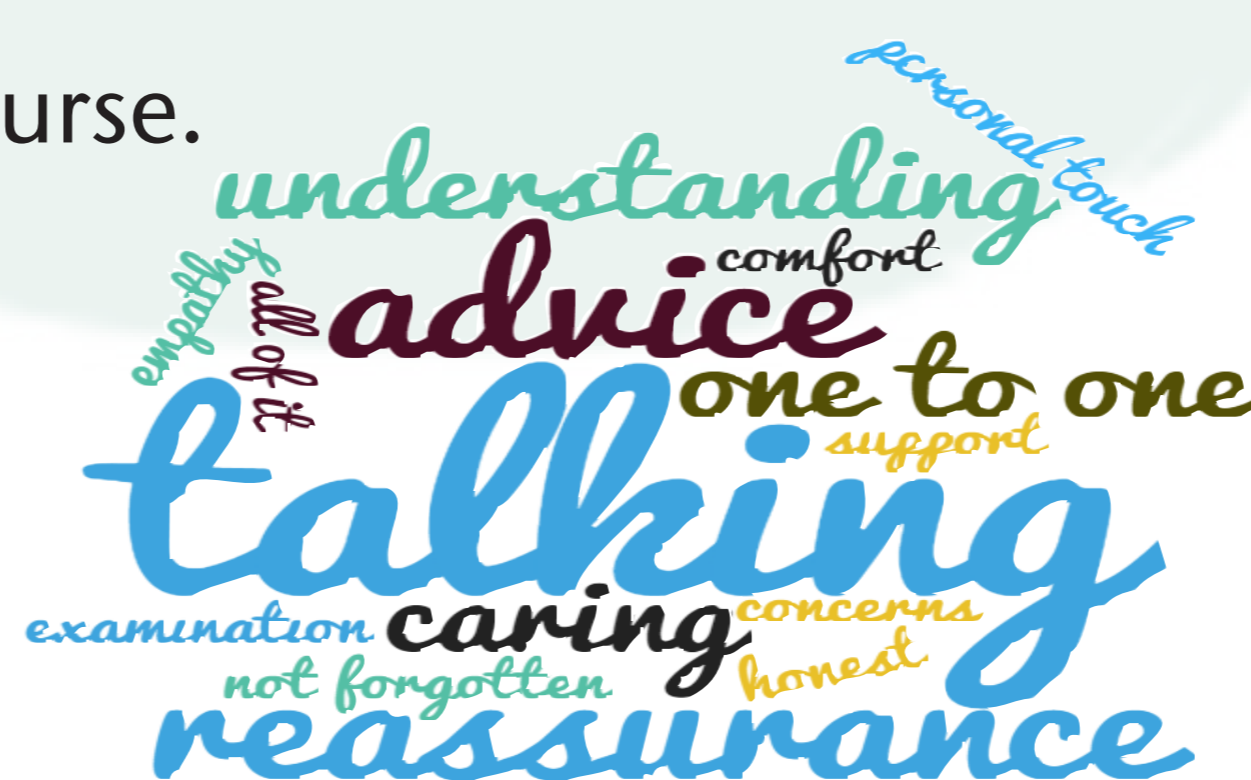


10 practice nurses trained in cancer as a long term condition to increase competence and confidence in delivering cancer care reviews.

Connections to Local and National cancer support for people and their families e.g. The Havens, Maggie's Lanarkshire, Kilbryde Hospice, St. Andrew's Hospice, peer support groups, wider voluntary and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector community assets.

### What we've found so far, Jan'16-Apr'17

- ❖ 312 people invited for a cancer review.
- ❖ 80% of people accepted this offer.
- ❖ Off those attending a review: 45% Male, 55% Female, median age 67 years.
- ❖ 54% were from the most deprived areas (SIMD 1 & 2).
- ❖ Breast, Prostate & Lung were the most reported cancers.
- ❖ 20-30 minutes was the average time spent by the practice nurse.
- ❖ The word cloud opposite depicts the benefits of the review for the person with cancer.
- ❖ Fatigue, Fear of reoccurrence and Pain were some of the main concerns raised.
- ❖ 87% of people felt that they had received very good support from the cancer care review and score 8 or above on a 1-10 scale.
- ❖ The majority of practices reported that the cancer care review would not have been delivered in the holistic manner that is currently adopted, and patient needs would not have been met.



### Conclusion

Results so far from over 250 cancer reviews indicate that a practice nurse approach is both feasible and acceptable. Stratifying people to the practice nurse or GP, depending on the cancer complexity and person's needs aids in building workforce capacity.

Individuals reported that they valued the time that practice nurses provide to listen to their concerns, and helped navigate them around the maze of services and support including those in their local community.

#### Acknowledgements:

Dr Rosalie Dunn who was a visionary for this project.