

## **Celebrating National Cancer Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) Day 2026**

National Cancer Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) Day is a day to celebrate and highlight everything that the cancer nursing workforce does for patients in the UK-wide health sector every day.

Here at MTW, we have 75 cancer CNS's providing outstanding care to some of our most in need patients every day and helping them and their families through their cancer journey, covering areas including haematology, palliative care, acute oncology, breast and urology.

A cancer clinical nurse specialist is a qualified nurse. They deliver, person-centred care to patients, providing them with specialist support, which includes information about their type of cancer, treatment options and possible side effects. They support people from the point of diagnosis and continue to be involved in their care throughout their cancer treatment.



As part of the National Cancer CNS Day celebrations this year, we are focussing on just a few of our colleagues working within the roles and hearing more about their experiences and what they enjoy most about providing care to patients. Next up is our Metastatic Colorectal Cancer CNS, Andrea Blurton, who we've managed to get five minutes with in amongst her busy life supporting patients, volunteering as a Scout leader and planning her next camper van adventure...

### **Can you tell us a bit about you, your career journey and what led you to become a Cancer CNS?**

When I qualified in 2002 my first job was on an Oncology ward at The Kent Oncology Centre. Since then I have worked in Oncology Outpatients, on the chemotherapy unit and with the Acute Oncology service. This range of experience has helped in my current role as a Metastatic Colorectal Cancer CNS.

### **How do you support patients and families during some of their most challenging times?**

Open and honest communication strengthens relationships with patients and families because it builds trust and makes difficult conversations more manageable. It helps people feel informed, respected, and included in decisions about their care. When trust is established early, patients are more likely to share concerns, ask questions, and engage in their treatment, which ultimately leads to safer and more person-centred care.

### **What skills or qualities do you think make a great CNS?**

A CNS should be kind and caring, as well as honest and approachable. Strong communication skills are essential, along with the ability to work effectively as part of a multidisciplinary team. The role also requires a high level of organisation and planning- aspects of the job that I particularly enjoy.

### **What's the one item you always have with you on shift (and can't live without)?**

My water bottle - I do a lot of talking in this role so I am always thirsty!

**If your role had a theme song that played every time you walked into work, what would it be and why?**

I would pick 'Lean on Me' by Bill Withers: A tribute to supporting patients and colleagues through difficult or emotional times.

**When you're not at work, what helps you switch off and recharge?**

I volunteer as a Scout leader working with young people aged 14–17, helping them develop life skills which is extremely rewarding. This role has given me a huge range of opportunities, from spending time outdoors and taking part in community events to working backstage at the local theatre.

One of the highlights was travelling to South Korea in 2023 to attend the World Scout Jamboree, which was an incredible experience.

I'm also a big fan of musical theatre, and trips in my camper van both of which help me relax and unwind.

[Find out more about National Cancer Clinical Nurse Specialist Day.](#)

