

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. First up is Min Zhang, who moved to the UK from China in 2005 and has been part of the MTW family for 15 years. We caught up with Min to find out a little more about life as a CNS...

Tell us about your career so far

I graduated from nursing school in China in 1993 and I worked as a registered nurse on a urology ward for 12 years before I moved to the UK. I worked in nursing homes from 2005-2010 as a health care assistant and then joined MTW in 2010.

Tell us about a normal working day within your role...

I don't have a fixed working pattern each day - which I truly love! I run two nurse led clinics a week and I will see patients with urology consultants and make sure patient safety remains as my top priority. I track bladder cancer patients through their journey and make sure they have surgery, treatment and follow ups on time. I order scans/bloods test for patients and I call patients with their results as well as referring patients to urology MDM once biopsies are ready. I work closely with oncologists, see patients who require radiotherapy and chemotherapy in a joint clinic with oncology consultants. Although I mainly look after bladder cancer patients, I also cover the service for prostate and kidney cancer when my colleagues are on leave.

What are your interests outside of work?

I love running, gardening, cooking, travelling and drawing, I am a big fan of Parkrun and really enjoy running with 500/600 people together no matter rain or shine. I am also obsessed with growing my own vegetables and fruits. This is very rewarding when it comes to the harvest, sharing home grown vegetables with friends, neighbours and colleagues makes me the happiest woman on the planet.

What makes you passionate about your job?

Cancer can affect one's life in so many ways, I have been through my mum's cancer journey, I knew deeply that adequate support from clinical nurse specialists can make a huge difference to the quality of life of someone with cancer. I want to provide the best care possible for my patients and their family members. It's a privilege to be in the position to provide such support, to be a small part of a person's life when they are in pain, despair and facing a cancer diagnosis and feeding back good news is an honour too.

What has been the best moment of your career in this role so far?

There isn't a dull moment in this role to be honest! I love every aspect of my role, what makes a good day for me? Firstly: learning something new each day. Secondly: one good deed a day. Working side by side with the most experienced and knowledgeable doctors, you will always find plenty to learn, we are very fortunate to have an amazing team of nurses, support workers and admin staff, I have learnt a lot from these amazing people too, so to me, every day is very rewarding and inspiring.

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

