

Mrs. Helen Howison



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Clinical Practice

With over 25 years of nursing experience, I have cared for acute general medical patients, working in surgery, respiratory care, palliative and oncology care. I have acute oncology experience as an oncology ward sister prior to appointment as clinical nurse specialist (CNS) role. I led the Lung Cancer and Mesothelioma team at a University Hospital, with a large mesothelioma caseload for 15 years. Within this role patients with urgent, debilitating but benign respiratory illnesses were cared for as the lung cancer services were able to fast track investigations. As a Macmillan Cancer Information Nurse Specialist, I was responsible for providing expert holistic information for people affected by all cancer diagnosis. I cared for patients in hospital and in the community liaising with the wider healthcare teams in primary care.

I have advanced interpersonal skills which result in prompt development of therapeutic relationships with patients and their support network.

Expert Witness Practice

Utilising my extensive nursing experience, I provide CPR compliant quantum care reports, specifying both client and dependent spouse care requirements. I produce in life and deceased care reports for clients with asbestos related illness, benign respiratory disease and delayed cancer diagnosis. I comprehensively evidence gratuitous family and commercial care costs, alongside appropriate aids and adaptations.

I prepare detailed dependency loss of service reports when un-met care needs are demonstrated, such reports have considered chronic ill health such as COPD, arthritis, diabetes and dementia. I have liaised with instructing solicitors regarding capacity and best interest decisions when the claimant has known impaired decision-making capacity.

I have completed several Joint Statements following rigorous discussion with peers and have given oral evidence in court. Whilst my instructions have been from claimant solicitors I welcome instructions from defendant solicitors and can offer a single joint expert opinion.

Core Skills

- Expert witness medico-legal skills and provision of comprehensive quantum nursing care reports
- Telephone triage, acute clinical assessment skills and recognition of oncological emergencies
- Confident communication skills, including virtual client assessment
- Experienced with breaking bad news and recognition of unmet supportive care needs

Career Summary & key responsibilities

- 2019 – current role **Provision of expert witness nursing care reports**
- 2021 – 2022 **Macmillan Cancer Information Nurse Specialist**
 - Provision of expert cancer information and supportive care on a national platform
- 2006 - 2021 **Lead Clinical Nurse Specialist Lung Cancer and Mesothelioma**
 - Management of lung cancer CNS service, provision of patient care and advocacy
 - CNS representative on Wales wide initiatives at Welsh Government
- 2004 - 2006 **Acute oncology in patient ward**
 - Delivery of acute oncology care for in-patients in regional specialist cancer centre.
 - Provision of nurse in charge and site management role.
- 2000 – 2004 **Cardiothoracic in-patient surgery**
 - Delivery of acute nursing care for in patients undergoing cardiac and thoracic surgery.
 - Development of knowledge and skills regarding lung cancer and mesothelioma surgical procedures and provision of high dependency care.

Relevant Pre and Post graduate education

- Cardiff University Bond Solon Expert Witness Civil Certificate 2022
(Excellence in Report Writing, Courtroom Skills, Cross Examination and Civil Law & Procedure training).
- University of South Wales 2018 – 2020
 - MSc Advanced Practice for Healthcare Professionals
- Royal Marsden School of Nursing associated with Kingston and St Georges University 2012
 - Mesothelioma care (Level 6)
- Cardiff University, School of Nursing and Midwifery Studies
 - Cancer Care Module 2007 (Level 6)
 - Clinical Patient Assessment 2008 (Level 6)
- University of the West of England
 - Diploma of nursing, Adult Branch (1997 – 2000)

Continuing CPD

- Attendance at national health and civil law conferences to maintain knowledge and skills
- Attendance at seminars pertinent to expert witness practice
- Clinical supervision with peers
- Self-directed study

Additional information

- Annual registration with ICO
- Appropriate annual professional indemnity insurance
- DBS check renewed 2025