



ABC UK Nursing Grants Programme – Grants for Nurse-led Projects

We wish to acknowledge the great contribution made by specialist nurses to improving both patient experience and their treatment pathway. Bladder cancer can have a long treatment pathway, and a specialist nurse is often the health professional that a bladder cancer patient sees most often – for example in giving treatments, in follow up clinics, or providing support and advice before and after bladder removal. Specialist nurses are often well placed to recognise barriers or identify patient need.

We want to encourage and enable more nurses to participate in ABC UK's grant programme and to apply for project funding.

The ABC UK Nursing Grants Programme gives grants to nurse-led projects that directly benefit bladder cancer patients – this work might improve knowledge, facilitate change, explore different approaches and, most importantly, directly improve outcomes for patients or the patient experience. Some examples of areas for a project might be: improving treatment systems and pathways within a hospital or clinic; mapping and improving the patient experience, improving bladder cancer monitoring or follow up treatment systems or pathways within hospitals, or patient surveys - or within any other area where nursing expertise can make an impact for bladder cancer patients or their experience of treatment.

HOW TO APPLY

It is a simple application process and we can also provide assistance with your application.

The ABC UK Nursing Grants Programme is open to Urology and Cancer Nursing Specialists - a nurse might be working with patients within urology services where patients are being diagnosed and tested or undergoing surgery, or within other areas where those with bladder cancer are being treated - such as oncology, radiography etc, or in a follow up clinic where patients are monitored for recurrence or other issues. Nurses are able to apply for an ABC UK Grant to support work they wish to undertake either individually or as part of a multidisciplinary team or with other colleagues.

Simple application process and support

It's a simple application process and full details on how to apply will be given when the round opens. If you have an idea you would like to submit for an ABC UK Grant, you can contact us to talk about your idea and ask any questions, and we can support you throughout the application process. You can also register your interest and provide contact details for early notification of new funding rounds.

The next funding round will open for applications from late November 2023 to end February 2024.

Watch out for further information on our website or social media – or contact us on info@actionbladdercanceruk.org or visit www.actionbladdercanceruk.org

An Action Bladder Cancer UK Programme

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Project Examples

Here are just some of the nurse-led projects we have funded - these may give you an idea for a project to undertake at your own hospital.

PROJECT 1: 2023 Nursing Grant Winner: University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust, Urology Centre

We were delighted to award a 2023 grant to a very interesting project which looks at a neglected area of bladder cancer patient care.

The project, at University Hospital Southampton, looks at developing a programme to support rehabilitation in female patients who have undergone radical cystectomy and help them to improve their sexual function. This problem is poorly understood and often not addressed in clinical practice. Their project aims to improve the sexual function outcomes of female patients undergoing radical cystectomy in the unit with a combination of pre-operative counselling in a dedicated clinic, nerve sparing cystectomy (when clinically appropriate and in line with patient wishes) as well as a structured post-operative sexual rehabilitation programme to include the use of vaginal dilators and psychological support.



Lidia Ksiazek, Bladder Cancer Clinical Nurse Specialist, who is leading this nurse-led project was also invited to be a speaker at the ABC UK Education Day in September 2023, attended by nearly 100 nurses.

PROJECT 2: Understanding the Barriers in the Cystectomy Pathway and Improving Patient Experience

Lead: Shieny Abraham, Bladder Nurse Specialist, Whipps Cross Hospital, London

The pathway was initially developed to review the patient 2 week wait to referral for cystectomy, looking at four hospitals and their referral process on to the cancer centre. Other outcomes included setting up TURBT education seminars to educate patients on their suspected diagnosis prior to TURBT; Implementation of treatment summaries post diagnosis or if treatment changes; The CNS's decorated the support group room over the weekend to make the area more patient friendly; The nurses have integrated their service with the benign nurses and set up a one/two stop bladder symptom clinic; shortlisted for a national award from Macmillan – the implementation of the recovery package - by improving patient experience by redesigning patient pathways that are 'Patient Centred'.

PROJECT 3: Improving the Patient Experience Programme

Leads: Cystoscopy CNS nurses, St. James's, Leeds and the Leeds Bladder Cancer Patient Support Group

The support group worked closely with nurses in the cystoscopy unit, using a 'mystery shopper' approach to the patient experience of cystoscopy. After a group discussion, the patient journey through the cystoscopy unit was looked at in practical detail. Some simple, but welcome, changes were made as a result such as: Improved 'visibility' of bladder cancer patients; 'Mystery shopper' worked well; Significant improvements made in patient experience of cystoscopy; Relatively low-cost proposals combined with readiness of the hospital to improve the patient experience meant successful change within six months. Some of these solutions related to simple 'fixes' around the changing areas for patients, toilets and collection of urine samples.