

HEADED NOTE PAPER

Date

Dear Dr,

The experience of proximate spiritual healing in women with breast cancer who are receiving long term hormonal therapy

Your patient has been recruited, through the Oncology Department at Southampton General Hospital, to participate in the above study. A copy of the patient information sheet is enclosed for your information.

Spiritual healing is a comparatively neglected area of research. Healing is sometimes referred to as the laying on of hands, although it does not necessarily involve direct touch. Whilst it is often referred to as 'spiritual' healing, it is available to people with any religious belief and to those with no belief.

The aim of this research is to find out if one-to-one healing can offer any benefits for people who are receiving long term medical treatments such as the hormone therapy. Healers do not treat the disease symptom but the person, inducing relaxation which can alleviate stress, anxiety, perceptions of pain and promote feelings of well-being and empowerment. We have emphasised that healers make no claim to be able to cure cancer.

Healing will take place in the Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility at Southampton General Hospital and patients will be able to book up to ten healing sessions, free of charge, with healers from the Harry Edwards Healing Sanctuary.

I have attached a list of the inclusion/exclusion criteria used in the Oncology Department for this study. If you know of any reason why your patient's inclusion would be inappropriate, please contact me within the next seven days.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,
Yours sincerely

Fiona Barlow MSc., BA, BACP(Accred.)