

CASE STUDY

ALISON'S STORY



Alison, 44, received breast cancer treatment at home and was able to keep her job

"I was diagnosed with breast cancer in September 2009. I'd noticed what felt like a fatty lump in my right breast and decided to get it checked out by my GP, who sent me to hospital for further investigation.

I was given a scan and then an ultrasound and my doctor told me straight away that they thought it was cancer. It was a shock, but I'm quite strong and didn't panic.

Later I went for biopsies, probably the worst part of my treatment, and the results came through seven days later confirming I had breast cancer.

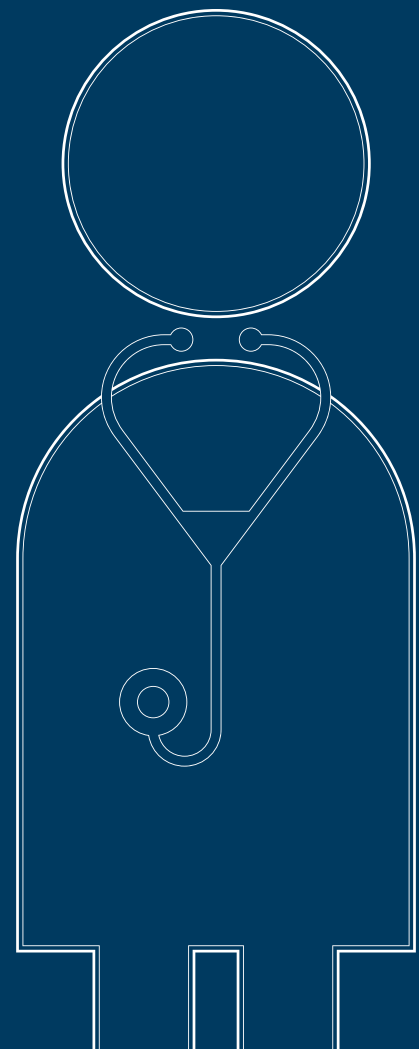
My doctor explained that I'd need a lumpectomy to remove the lump and four lymph node nodules, as well as a course of chemotherapy afterwards.

After my treatment was finished though I was told I'd need an IV infusion of the drug Herceptin every three weeks for a year. I was worried about how I would fit this in with my work in a residential home, but the hospital chemotherapy staff explained that the treatment could be given to me at home via a Bupa Home Healthcare nurse and the service would be paid for by the NHS. I live an hour away from the hospital so this seemed like a much more convenient way to have the treatment.

My nurse Cathy came every three weeks and set up the IV drip in my hand and stayed around two hours. She became a friend and was very kind and treated me with great respect. She answered all my questions and always had the time to talk through anything I was worried about.

I felt I kept my dignity and also felt lucky not to have to go to hospital for treatment, everyone seemed to have a cold there and it was great not to be exposed to everyone else's bugs. Having the treatment at home also helped me carry on working, which I felt well enough to do and was keen to continue with."

"Having cancer was tough, but having care at home really helped me get through it. It's an excellent personal service; I'd recommend it to any cancer patient and encourage them to have it."



CONTACT US

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