

CASE STUDY

DONNA'S STORY



Donna, 43, received treatment for breast cancer at home.

"I was diagnosed with breast cancer in June 2010. I was told I'd have to have six months of chemotherapy to shrink the tumour, before I could have a mastectomy. I went to the Velindre Cancer Hospital in Cardiff every three weeks to have my treatment. The staff there were very kind and I received good treatment, but the chemotherapy itself was gruelling and really took its toll on me. My hair fell out, I suffered mouth ulcers and some sickness – but by far the worst problem I had to cope with was my depression. Some days I just didn't want to get up in the mornings and wanted to hide away from the world.

In December 2010 after my chemotherapy finished I had the mastectomy and reconstruction with a temporary implant. By this stage I was relieved that most of my treatment was over – I didn't want to be sick anymore and just wanted to get on with my life and stop being a patient and be a person again.

The hospital had told me I would then need an intravenous infusion of the drug Herceptin® every three weeks for a year. I wanted to have the treatment but the thought of going back to hospital filled me with dread – I just didn't want to sit in another waiting room surrounded by other people like myself – I just found it too depressing.

Luckily though, my hospital was able to offer treatment at home via Bupa Home Healthcare. A nurse would come once every three weeks, set up a drip and stay with me until the treatment had finished.

Not having to go to hospital has actually made me feel more like a person again rather than a cancer patient."

"When I told my friends and family, they were amazed that I could get such a personal service, arranged at my convenience on the NHS and that it was totally free."

"The care I've received has actually made a horrific situation – having cancer – bearable. It also meant that my husband didn't have to have time off to take me to hospital every three weeks."

CONTACT US

To find out more about our complex and continuing care service, please call **01279 456789** or email enquiries@bupahomehealthcare.com

