

Leah Taylor RN BSc (Hons) Cancer Care, PG Cert Nursing Studies



Leah Taylor is a mesothelioma clinical nurse specialist based in the northeast of England.

Leah completed her nurse training in 1996 working initially on an acute medical ward. During this initial employment and through her training Leah cared for patients with mesothelioma and developed an interest in the condition alongside an interest in cancer and palliative care. Working on an acute medical ward gave Leah a wide general medical nursing experience, caring for patients who had long-term conditions, including stroke, respiratory and heart diseases.

In 1998 Leah moved into hospice nursing at the local Marie Curie Hospice, gaining extensive experience and knowledge of symptom management. Working in both the inpatient and day hospice environments gave experience of helping people live well at home while dealing with difficult symptoms.

After gaining experience in teaching as a nurse educator in medical education Leah joined the lung cancer nursing team at her Trust where she became Lead Lung Cancer Nurse. As a Cancer Nurse Specialist Leah is experienced in managing the patient pathway throughout the disease trajectory having gained extensive knowledge in diagnosis, treatment pathways and advanced disease, providing expert knowledge and guidance to patients and families at every stage. Caring for patients in the diagnostic, treatment and palliative stages of disease in different environments has given Leah experience of managing the whole patient pathway.

Throughout both the hospice and lung roles Leah gained considerable experience in caring for patients with mesothelioma and her interest continued to develop. In 2015 the opportunity arose to join Mesothelioma UK as a nurse specialist. Leah's current role is Head of Nursing for Mesothelioma UK, leading a team of 30+ nurses across the UK and she retains a clinical nurse specialist role within her own Trust. Leah is involved in many aspects of mesothelioma care and has recently co-led a research study exploring nutrition. Leah has presented at national and international conferences on various areas of mesothelioma care and treatment.

Leah is an International Thoracic Oncology Nursing Forum (ITONF) committee member and a member of Lung Cancer Nursing UK (LCNUK) and the British Thoracic Oncology Group (BTOG).

In addition to nurse training, Leah has achieved a Bachelor of Science in Cancer Care and has completed post graduate study in Counselling, Nursing and Genomic

Medicine. Leah has recently undertaken core training with the Expert Witness Institute (EWI).

| Qualifications | Awarding Organisation | Year |
|---|--|-------------|
| RN DipHe | University of Northumbria | 1996 |
| Advanced Certificate in Counselling Skills | University of Durham | 2001 |
| Certificate in Training Practice | Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development | 2005 |
| BSc Practice Development Cancer Care | University of Northumbria | 2012 |
| Postgraduate Certificate in Nursing Studies | University of Sunderland | 2023 |

Additional Training & Education

| Subject | Organisation | Date |
|--|----------------------|-------------|
| Introduction to Human Genetics and Genomics | Newcastle University | 2017 |
| Molecular Pathology and Application in Cancer Diagnosis, Screening and Treatment | Newcastle University | 2018 |
| Ethical, Legal and Social Issues in Applied Genomics | Newcastle University | 2018 |

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|---|--------------------------|------|
| Report Writing 1 | Expert Witness Institute | 2024 |
| Report Writing 2 | Expert Witness Institute | 2024 |
| Law for Experts (England & Wales) | Expert Witness Institute | 2024 |
| Expert Discussions and Joint Statements | Expert Witness Institute | 2024 |

Publications

Dismore L, Swainston K, Hurst C, Aujayeb A, Taylor L. (2024). Healthcare professionals' experience of nutritional management in mesothelioma: qualitative insights from the Help Meso Study. *Lung Cancer*. 190. 107619. 10.1016/j.lungcan.2024.107619.

Taylor L, Swainston K, Hurst C, Aujayeb A, Poulter H, Dismore L. (2022). Health and Lifestyle of Patients with Mesothelioma: Protocol for the Help-Meso Study. *Journal of Respiration*. 2. 129-138. 10.3390/jor2030011.

Dismore LL, Taylor LL, Aujayeb A, Hurst C, Swainston K. (2024) Patients with mesothelioma and their carer's experience of diet and appetite: a qualitative insight

from the Help-Meso Study. *J Hum Nutr Diet.* 2024; 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jhn.13301>