

Contract Counsellor – Women’s Cancer

Location: Surrey / Sussex / Hampshire (hybrid or in-person, depending on service needs)

Contract type: Session-based fixed term contract

Start date: Flexible

Rate: £45 per hour, plus a contribution to supervision costs.

About the Role

We are seeking an **experienced and emotionally grounded counsellor** to work with **women affected by gynaecological cancers**, including those living with **advanced or terminal diagnoses**. This role involves providing sensitive, client-centred therapeutic support to women navigating diagnosis, treatment, recurrence, palliative care, and end-of-life concerns.

You will work with complex emotional themes such as grief, anticipatory loss, identity change, relationship issues, trauma, fear, family impact, and meaning-making at the end of life. The role requires a high level of clinical competence, self-awareness, and comfort working with mortality and uncertainty.

Key Responsibilities

- Provide one-to-one therapeutic counselling to women with cancer, including those facing terminal illness
- Offer trauma-informed, compassionate, and ethically sound support
- Maintain accurate clinical notes and adhere to confidentiality and safeguarding requirements
- Engage in regular clinical supervision
- Work collaboratively with healthcare, support, or multidisciplinary teams where appropriate
- Attending our in-house urgent support service at East Surrey Hospital that run alongside their Friday clinic to provide more immediate psychological support to women receiving a diagnosis

Essential Qualifications & Experience

- **Minimum qualification:**
 - **Level 4 Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling or Psychotherapy** (or equivalent practitioner-level qualification) or higher

- **Professional membership:**
 - Registered or eligible for registration with a recognised professional body:
 - **British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP)**
 - **National Counselling and Psychotherapy Society (NCPS)**
 - **Advanced DBS certificate**
 - All applicants must be able to provide evidence of a current DBS certificate and registration with the update service.
 - **Experience:**
 - Proven experience working with **female cancer patients or those with other life limiting diseases.**
 - Strong experience with **grief, loss, trauma, end-of-life counselling and related relationship difficulties.**
 - Demonstrated knowledge and experience in working with diverse and intersectional populations, including individuals affected by poverty, disability, adverse childhood experiences, minority backgrounds, and the additional impact of a cancer diagnosis.
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Desirable

- Experience in oncology, palliative care, hospice, or health-related settings
 - Additional training in grief therapy, existential therapy, trauma-informed practice, or loss and bereavement
 - Familiarity with working alongside medical or support services
 - Confidence working independently within a contract role
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Professional Standards

This role requires practitioner-level competence aligned with recognised awarding bodies such as the **Counselling and Psychotherapy Central Awarding Body (CPCAB)** and adherence to ethical frameworks set by professional registers.

Personal Qualities

- High emotional resilience and reflective capacity

- Warm, non-judgemental, and grounded presence
 - Ability to sit with distress, uncertainty, and end-of-life conversations
 - Strong ethical boundaries and commitment to self-care and supervision
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How to Apply

Please submit:

- A CV outlining qualifications and relevant experience
- A brief statement describing your experience working with women affected by cancer and/or terminal illness
- Details of your DBS, professional registration and supervision arrangements

Deadline: all applications to be received by midnight on Sunday, 22nd March 2026.

Please note: Due to the provision of counselling to women diagnosed with gynae cancers within a women's only service, this position is open to **females only** under a Genuine Occupational Requirement (GOR) in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

To find out more about this role, or to have an information conversation, call the GRACE team on 01483 904153 or email: support@grace-charity.org.uk