

Going Home Checklist

Before leaving the department please check that :

- Any cannula (needle) has been removed.
- Any medications you require have been collected or a plan for collection.
- If you need to return, please ensure that you know the date, time and place.
- You know the ongoing plan (i.e. if you need to book a GP appointment for follow up or what to do if you become unwell).

Please confirm these with your doctor or nurse as they prepare you for discharge.

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Acute Medical Unit

Information for Patients and Carers

This leaflet can be made available
in alternative languages / formats
on request.

如有需要，本传单可提供其他语言/版式
此單張的其他語言/格式版本可按要求提供

Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać
udostępniona
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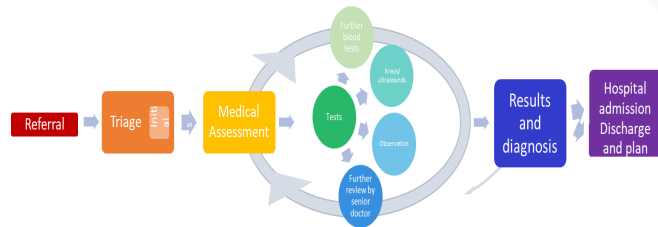
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Welcome to Acute Medical Unit

This unit offers same day assessment, investigations and management of acute medical problems.

1. Referral

Patients are sent in by their GP, walk-in centres or other professionals for same day assessment. Others have already attended on a previous day and are coming back for follow up or treatment. There are multiple different pathways being followed so you may be seen in a different order depending on which group you are in.



2. Triage

Once checked in, you will be added to a list for triage. Blood tests and basic observations such as blood pressure will be taken. If it is obvious on triage that you are more unwell or need immediate medical attention, you will be prioritised for earlier doctor assessment.

3. Assessment

Initial medical assessment involves a doctor or an Advanced Nurse Practitioner who will take a history of your problems and perform a physical examination. Some patients will be discharged after this. Others will require further tests, a period of observation or a review by a senior doctor or specialist. You will likely be asked similar questions again to clarify your condition.

Please be aware there can be a long wait for this assessment. This depends on the number of patients to be seen or if anyone needs to be seen out of turn because they are more unwell or if a case is complicated. The team will make every effort to keep you informed of the waiting time.

4. Investigations

Almost all patients will undergo blood tests and some patients may need repeat tests to monitor for any change. Blood results usually take 1-2 hours approximately. Some patients will need further tests such as X-Rays, CT scan or Ultrasound Scan. You will be informed if this is the case. Some tests will be done on the next day, in which case you will be given an appointment to come back for your test and results.

5. Results and Diagnosis

Following your assessment and tests, your clinician will advise you of the results and diagnosis.

6. Outcome

Once a diagnosis and treatment plan have been reached, your clinician will advise you on what happens next. Many patients will go home with reassurance and treatment. A letter will be sent to your GP. You may need to return for treatments such as injections or for repeat tests. You may also need to be admitted to hospital and if so, you will be listed for a bed.

Please check with your nurse if there is anything further to be done, such as getting medications before you leave the department.

Further information

Waiting Times

Patients spend an average of 4 hours in the department. This can vary significantly. A bed will be arranged for you if you need to be admitted. Please be aware blood results often take up to 2 hours and other Radiology results can take longer. If you are waiting for a result your clinician and nurse will be checking for it frequently. Please ask your nurse if significant time has passed.

Food and Drink

Kitchen staff will come round intermittently with tea and coffee. Additionally there is a vending machine in the waiting room. A water fountain can be found along the corridor to the left as you exit the waiting room.

There is a Costa Coffee/ WHSmith at the main reception area and a hospital canteen on the 5th floor open until 8:00 pm if you wish to buy other food and drink. If you wish to leave to buy food /drink, please inform your nurse so that they can advise if you need to remain in the department for any reason. They may ask you for your contact number in case you are to be called when away from the unit.

Any questions?

If you require any assistance or have any questions whilst in the department, please speak to your allocated nurse or doctor/ clinician.

Please also ask questions when you are seen, if next steps are unclear. We will do our best to keep you informed as your journey in the department goes on.