Relative information

Coronary Care Unit

Important information for all relatives of patients being treated within the Coronary Care Unit.

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About this booklet

This booklet is for relatives of patients in the Coronary Care Unit (CCU) at the Golden Jubilee National Hospital.

What is the Coronary Care Unit?

The Coronary Care Unit is an area specialising in the care of patients with various cardiac conditions that require continuous monitoring and treatment. When entering the CCU, please report to our staff at the nursing station, who will provide you with more information.

Why has my relative been transferred to the Golden Jubilee National Hospital and not their local hospital?

The Golden Jubilee National Hospital provides regional and national heart and lung services, investigations and procedures. These include the emergency procedure called Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PPCI) and urgent coronary angiogram, which are not available in most local hospitals.

What is Primary PCI?

Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PPCI) is an emergency procedure used to open a blocked coronary artery. This blockage results in Myocardial Infarction (MI), more commonly known as a heart attack. This treatment helps restore the blood supply to the heart muscle by opening the blocked coronary artery and, in some instances, inserting a small mesh tube, called a stent.
What is a coronary angiogram?

Your relative may have been transferred to the Golden Jubilee from another hospital for an urgent inpatient angiogram if they have been having increasing anginal symptoms or have had a small heart attack. A coronary angiogram is a diagnostic test used to identify any narrowing or blockages in the coronary arteries. If a narrowed or blocked artery is diagnosed your relative may, in some instances, have a stent inserted.

In most cases, this procedure is carried out via an artery in the wrist, but in some cases it is done via an artery in the groin. Your relative will be on bed rest until it is safe for them to walk around the room; this will be advised by the nursing/medical staff.

After the procedure

If your relative has had no complications following their procedure, we will aim to transfer them back to their local hospital within 24 hours of admission. This involves discussion with the local hospital and ambulance service to ensure a bed and transport are available. We will notify the next of kin once this has been arranged. Sometimes transfers can happen at short notice, however we will keep you updated of transfer arrangements as early and often as possible.

Cardiac rehabilitation is an important part of the recovery process following a heart attack and will, in most cases, take place at the patient’s local hospital. Your relative will be given more detailed information regarding cardiac rehabilitation at the time.
Visiting times

Our visiting times are 3pm to 5pm and 6pm to 8pm. We have protected meal times from 12pm to 1pm and 5pm to 6pm.

Visiting outside of these times can be arranged at the discretion of the nurse in charge. If you wish to bring children under the age of 12 to visit, please clear this with the nurse in charge in advance. Visiting is limited to two visitors at the bedside; this is for the safety of the patient and to ensure they are getting the rest and recovery time they require.

Contacting the ward

The ward can be contacted on: 0141 951 5202. If possible, please avoid phoning the ward between 7am and 10am, as this is the busiest period of the day. If you have a large family, we would appreciate if you could nominate one family member to contact the ward for updates.

All NHS staff have a legal duty to keep information about your relative confidential and will usually only share information with carers and social workers. Information will only be given to others if the patient has given their permission. As such, please respect that we can only give out limited information over the telephone.
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