



Coronary Care Unit (CCU)

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

CCU direct dial: 0141 951 5202

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 happen at short notice, however we will aim to 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

Coronary care has open visiting throughout the day but we would ask visitors to be considerate of the following:

- Patient's visitors are always welcome and play an important role in the healing and recovery, however some times of the day tend to be busier than others. There is often a lot of activity in the mornings and often certain procedures and investigations will be pre-planned for specific times. During these times you may be asked to step out of the ward for a short time. Please speak to nursing staff for advice on when is best to visit.
- Visiting is limited to two visitors at the bedside; this is for the benefit of the patient and to ensure they are getting the rest and recovery time they require. We recognise that there are times when more than two people might need to be in attendance. We are more than happy to discuss this, please just speak to a member of staff.
- If you wish to bring children under the age of 12 to visit please clear this with the nurse in charge in advance. Children must always be supervised.
- Please keep noise to a minimum and respect other patient's and visitors need for privacy.
- If ward rounds are taking place you may be asked to step outside for a short time. This helps us maintain patient confidentiality.

Contacting the ward

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.

All of our publications are available in different languages, larger print, braille (English only), audio tape or another format of your choice.

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