Travel

The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust’s main site is based about 15 minutes’ walk from the centre of Reading. The hospital is on a regular route for local buses. Reading Buses run the leopard 3, scarlet 9 and ‘the nineteens’ (19a, 19b, 19c) which combine to give a five to 10 minute frequency from Reading station stop SA to the hospital - the stop is right outside the main entrance to the station. The fare is just £1.20 to the hospital from the train station and just £1.20 back again (but this may change) - national concessionary or access bus passes can be used on the bus as well. You can find out more information on Reading Buses’ services and fares at www.reading-buses.co.uk

Reading train station is a 20 minute walk from the hospital (for a fit person) and offers high-speed rail links from London and Southampton. There is also easy access from the M4 motorway.

Bicycle racks are available near Maternity, Endoscopy, Battle Block, North Block, South Block and near the road entrance of the multi storey car park.
Parking
During peak periods, there is often difficulty finding a parking space. Please take this into consideration when deciding how and when to travel to the hospital.

Public parking in the multi storey car park is ‘pay on foot’. Take a ticket from the barrier as you enter and pay appropriate fee at pay station before leaving. Pay stations are located on Level 0 and Level 2 in the car park block. North Block and Endoscopy car parks remain ‘pay & display’. Parking for disabled badge holders is free of charge.

Parking concessions are available for the parents of children in paediatric wards, to the partners of women in labour and to the immediate relatives of long term patients. Speak to a nurse on the ward for more information on concessions.

Multi storey car park
Levels 0, 1, 2 and 3 are public. Most wards and departments are accessed from Level 2. There is no public access to A&E or Endoscopy from inside the main hospital.

Disabled parking
Level 2 has 26 disabled-only spaces and leads straight to the reception and to most wards and departments in the hospital. There are also seven disabled spaces on Level 0. A limited number of disabled spaces are also available near West Drive buildings, South Block, North Block, Endoscopy, Sexual Health and Battle Block.

Your appointment
Your appointment letter will tell you the date and time of your appointment and which block or building you need to go to. Please check your letter carefully before you set off for your appointment and please let us know if you are unable to attend.

The hospital is spread out over a large area and the wards and departments are located over several levels.

Please follow any instructions given in your appointment letter or card and follow the signs for the BLOCK and not the level. Wards, departments and clinics are signposted within each block.

The main reception desk is located on Level 2 and there is a Welcome Desk at the junction of Centre Block, Main Entrance and Eye Block – please ask the receptionists, welcome or any members of staff if you need help in finding your way to your appointment.

Getting around
Please be aware that it may take up to 15 minutes to walk to some wards and departments. Please take this into consideration when allowing time to get to your appointment.

An electric buggy driven by volunteers is also available Mon-Fri 9am-4pm to transport patients.

If your passenger is disabled and you require assistance between the multi storey car park and the hospital, speak to a receptionist. If you are parked in other areas around the hospital site, please be aware there may be no one to assist you in these areas.

Facilities
There are public toilets (including changing facilities) and telephones in every block.

Wheelchairs may be found on Level 2 in the multi storey car park.

Special requirements
If you have any special needs relating to a disability, or you require language or communication support, please ring the telephone number given in your appointment letter so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Refreshment and retail facilities
The site has a number of cafés and shops, vending machines and a restaurant available to visitors and members of the public. Please ask a member of staff or one of the welcome for directions to these.