



Welcome to Lion Ward

Information for parents and
carers of children admitted to
the paediatric oncology ward

Tel: 0118 322 7519 / 8105

Welcome to Lion Ward. This leaflet is used in addition to the information provided in your red Shared Care Diary from the Children's Hospital, Oxford. It gives information about Lion Ward and the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Direct access

Your child will always have direct access to Lion Ward while they are having active treatment. Please phone the ward on **0118 322 7519 / 8105** if you have any concerns about your child's health.

As your Shared Care Diary advises, if your child has a temperature of 38.0°C or above, or below 35.5°C, call Lion Ward, then bring your child straight to hospital (even if they feel well). Please aim to arrive on the ward **within 1 hour** of calling, as your child is **at risk of developing sepsis and could become very unwell very quickly. DO NOT give your child paracetamol.**

Rooms

Your child will be admitted to a single room on the ward, which has a recliner chair for one parent to stay overnight. Lion Ward has a parents' kitchen with a microwave, kettle and fridge, as well as tea, coffee and milk.

The rooms will be cleaned daily during your child's stay, but please keep your child's bedside area tidy and clear of litter. Please let the nursing staff know of any spills or if there are any areas of the room that need additional cleaning.

Your child should stay in their room to reduce the risk of infection.

Ward facilities

- **Teachers and play therapists** are available from Monday to Friday and can provide schoolwork or toys, puzzles, books, activities, etc.
- **Resident parents:** One parent is welcome to stay overnight with your child. A recliner chair is available by the bedside – please ask if you need a pillow or blanket.
- **Food:** Breakfast is provided at 8am. Hot meals are delivered to the ward around 12 midday and 5pm. Please ask ward staff if your child wants food or drinks at any other time. If you have concerns about your child's diet or weight, please ask the nurse/doctor about a referral to a dietitian.
- For **food and refreshment facilities for family members and visitors**, please check the ward noticeboard, ask ward staff about the nearest facilities or visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/food-and-drink.
- **Parking:** Your car registration will be automatically recorded upon entering the multi-storey car park. When your child is discharged, or you need to leave the hospital, please ask ward staff to validate your parking. This will ensure you are not charged when leaving the car park.

Medication

If your child is on any medication, please bring it with you in its original packaging. For patient safety, we ask you hand over all medication while your child is on the ward. It will be locked in the ward medication cupboard and given to your child at the usual time.

Whilst at home, if you are running low on any of your child's medications, please contact the ward Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm, so that they can be re-ordered for you.

Complementary therapies

Complementary therapies are not discouraged, but please discuss your plans with one of the Oncology Team first, as some alternative therapies can affect important medications.

Infection control

Relatives and friends **should not visit** if they have a virus, cold, sore throat, or cold sore, or if they have been in contact with anyone with an infectious illness, such as chickenpox, measles or diarrhoea and vomiting.

If your child has had contact with anyone with chickenpox, shingles, cold sore or measles, please contact the ward.

Visiting

There are no set visiting times for parents. Visiting times for other family members or friends is between 12 midday and 8pm. **There may be visiting restrictions in place if there are patients on the ward with certain infectious illnesses (such as norovirus).**

The Oncology Team includes:

- A paediatric oncologist (based in Oxford Children's Hospital at the John Radcliffe Hospital)
- Dr A Madasseri – Consultant Paediatrician with special interest in oncology
- Dr P Somwanshi – Consultant Paediatrician with special interest in oncology
- Kellie Oakley – Paediatric Oncology Nurse Specialist
- Hannah Titcombe – Paediatric Oncology Nurse Specialist
- Jonathan Smith – Lead Paediatric Pharmacist
- Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Community Nurse Team
- Sarah O'Hagan – Young Lives vs Cancer Social Worker

- Ines Banos – Clinical Psychologist
- Team of play leaders
- Team of multi-faith and spiritual (no-faith) Trust chaplains

What does each member of the team do?

- The Oxford consultant paediatric oncologist will work closely with the team at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. You will be able to see them in person at your child's scheduled visits to Oxford.
- The consultant paediatricians with a special interest in oncology care for and prescribe medication for patients on the ward, as well as in the Children's Oncology Clinic.
- The paediatric oncology nurse specialists are based on Lion Ward. They are available to answer any queries about your child's condition, treatment, or on-going care, and will liaise with other members of the team. They will also visit your child at home to give them medication, and (if required) can visit your child's nursery or school to inform teachers about your child's condition.
- The lead paediatric pharmacist dispenses medicines, assists with organising chemotherapy schedules and is available to answer any queries you may have about your child's medication.
- Members of the Children's Community Nurses Team care for children and young people with various conditions. They will visit you at home during your child's treatment, to take blood samples and help with dressings for Hickman lines.
- The Young Lives versus Cancer social worker provides counselling and support, can help with applications for financial assistance, and can arrange access to family breaks, and adventure holidays for patients and siblings.
- The clinical psychologist is available for appointments at oncology clinics, usually on the first Tuesday of each month. They can support children with cancer (and their families) by helping them

deal with the emotional and psychological issues they may face. Ask your nurse specialist if you think this would be useful.

- The play leaders are available to help prepare children for their treatment, distract them during different procedures, and can provide activities while they are in hospital.
- The Team of multi-faith and spiritual (no-faith) Trust chaplains are available on request to offer counselling and emotional support.

Most of the Oncology Team members work Monday to Friday during standard office hours (9am-5pm). If you need advice outside of these times, please ask a member of the nursing staff on duty on Lion Ward to contact the paediatric co-ordinator. They will give you advice, and if necessary, can contact the on-call doctor.

Doctors' rounds

These are daily visits, where the clinical team reviews and monitors each patient, and updates their treatment plans. They are usually in the morning between 10am and midday. On Tuesdays (clinic day), the rounds happen after clinic, usually between 1.30pm and 3pm.

Other useful information

- **Support staff, including dietitians and physiotherapists**, are available during standard working hours. Please ask a member of the ward staff if you think that your child needs these services.
- **Professional interpreters** can be arranged at any time. Any child deemed capable of making decisions about their health and/or taking part in conversations about their health, who needs an interpreter to do this, should be provided with a professional interpreter. Speak to ward staff if this service is required.
- **Shared care:** Your child's care will be shared between the Royal Berkshire Hospital and a specialist regional centre; usually the Children's Hospital at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. You may notice some differences between how things are done at

each site, but the doctors at both hospitals communicate closely and follow the same treatment practices. **Clinic:** We usually see children in the Oncology Clinic in the Royal Berkshire Hospital Children's Clinic as soon as possible after they have been discharged from Lion Ward. The clinic is held every Tuesday morning. It is run on a timed appointment system, and we will try to see you at your appointment time. However, families sometimes need extra time during their appointment, so please be prepared for a long wait on occasions. We will keep you informed if your child's appointment is going to be delayed.

- **Family life:** Serious illness can have an effect on the whole family. If you have other children, they may feel left out and ignored. It can help if you plan some time with them as the centre of attention. Ask about booklets available for siblings, to help them understand what is going on. In addition, the Young Lives versus Cancer social worker can help organise special outings throughout the year, for your child and the whole family.

We are here to help. Please ask us any questions you may have. If we do not know the answer, we will find someone who does.

Useful organisations

- Children's and Young People's Cancer Association
www.cclq.org.uk
- CLIC Sargent – Young Lives vs Cancer
www.younglivesvscancer.org.uk
- Macmillan Cancer Support www.macmillan.org.uk
- Blood Cancer UK <https://bloodcancer.org.uk/>

Contacting us

Kellie Oakley Paediatric Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist	0118 322 8134 / 7519 Mobile: 07557 318 971
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Children's Community Nurses:	0118 378 3932
Young Lives vs Cancer Social Worker:	01865 234006



To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

RBFT Lion Ward Oncology Unit

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