Delirium

Around a third of patients aged over 65 admitted to hospital may suffer an acute confusional state called ‘delirium’. There are many causes of delirium, such as infection, constipation, pain and medications. Delirium can take time to resolve once the underlying trigger has been treated. It frequently settles faster when the patient is in a familiar environment, such as their own home. It can take weeks or even months to fully resolve, but sometimes may represent a new chronic level of confusion, and sometimes may unmask a new diagnosis of dementia. Delirium can be distressing to witness and experience, but the ward team are trained to recognise and treat it if it develops.

ReSPECT

Sometimes patients become more unwell, and the intensity of treatment may need to be escalated. However, some treatments, such as being treated on the intensive care unit (ICU), can be physically and psychologically challenging, and may not be the right course of action. During an admission, patients and families will be given the opportunity to discuss the patient’s individualised Recommended Summary Plan for Emergency Care and Treatment (ReSPECT). More information on what this is can be found here: https://www.resus.org.uk/respect

Please note we have zero tolerance to abuse towards our staff. If you have concerns, please contact the ward manager or the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0118 322 8338 or email rbb-tr.pals@nhs.net

Contact details

Direct ward phone number:
0118 322 6733 or 0118 322 6734
Clinical Admin Team (CAT 10)
Tel: **0118 322 5474**
Email: rbb-tr.CAT10@nhs.net

Ward Manager: Sharon Hawkins

Consultants: Dr McColl, Dr Butt, Dr Weatherup and Dr Johnson

Friends and Family Test

Whatever your experience, you can give feedback by completing the Friends & Family test by going online www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/friends-and-family-test/ or by filling in a card issued before you leave hospital.

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 Elderly Care, October 2026
Next review due: October 2028

NHS
Royal Berkshire
NHS Foundation Trust

Welcome to Burghfield Ward: Elderly Care Unit

Information for patients, relatives and visitors

Burghfield Ward is an acute medical ward for older patients. Our goal is to enable each patient to become as independent and self-caring as possible, where appropriate.

You / your relative have been admitted to the Elderly Care Unit for specialised care. The ward consultants are Dr Nida Butt, Dr Daniel Johnson, Dr Kate Weatherup and Dr Aubretia McColl. There are regular full ward rounds of all patients throughout the week whilst new admissions to the ward, or people who have become more acutely unwell, will be reviewed every day. There is on-call consultant cover at the weekend.

The ward team comprises of doctors, physician assistants, nurses, health care assistants, pharmacists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, dietitians, and care crew.

Essential items to bring in

- Toiletry items such as soap, flannel, hairbrush, toothbrush and toothpaste.
- Slippers and practical shoes.
- Clothing for daytime - to wear out of bed every day to support your recovery
- Nightwear: Pyjamas or nightdresses for sleeping

Valuables

Patients are responsible for their own belongings. Please do not bring any valuables into hospital – relatives / friends will be asked to take them home for safekeeping. Please keep cash in the locker under £10 for newspapers etc.

Visiting

As a hospital, we encourage open visiting; however, **on Burghfield Ward, please visit between 12.30pm and 7pm.** This allows our team to deliver essential care – including ward rounds, personal care and rehabilitation. Designated carers and visitors to patients at the end of life are allowed anytime. Please discuss your needs with the nurse in charge.

Two visitors per patient at any one time.

Please contact the ward before visiting, as visiting times and restrictions may change.

Do not visit if you have / had diarrhoea and/or vomiting in the last 48-hours; or any of your household have any Covid-19 symptoms.

Please ensure you use the hand gel when entering and leaving the ward.

Medical information

If you have any questions about your treatment, aftercare or any other matters, please ask the doctor, nurse or therapist; who will be happy to help.

Telephone enquiries

If you are unable to visit, we are only able to give limited information over the phone. Please ring after 11am for general enquiries and please nominate one relative as main contact to maintain good communication.

Finding the ward

Burghfield is on level 3 in Battle Block and is accessible by stairs or by lift. The stairs and the lifts are located on level 1 near the Acute Stroke Unit, and on level 2 near Victoria Ward.

Car parking

Public parking is pay on foot (take ticket at entry barrier and pay at pay point machine before leaving) and the nearest parking is located on Levels 0-3 of the multi-storey car park. Disabled parking bays are clearly marked.

Mobile phones

You can use mobile phones in public / communal areas but not on the wards, without permission. Be sensitive to the needs of others when using your phone. Please note the hospital operates a policy of no photography or videoing in clinical areas.

Entertainment systems are at the bedsides with charge cards available from a machine near the ward entrance.