



Royal Berkshire
NHS Foundation Trust

Welcome to Lion Ward

Information for parents and
carers of oncology patients

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

Open access: Your child will have open access to Lion Ward at all times. Please phone the ward if you have any concerns about your child's health. As advised in your Shared Care Diary, if your child has a temperature of **38.0°** or above, first telephone Lion Ward then bring your child straight to hospital even if she/he feels well. **Please bring to the ward within 1 hour of calling. Your child is at risk of sepsis and becoming very unwell very quickly.**

DO NOT give your child paracetamol (Calpol) until you have seen a doctor.

If your child has a **low** temperature, less than **35.5°**, you will need to telephone Lion Ward for advice.

Rooms: You will be admitted to an oncology suite. However, if there is not one available you will be admitted to a single room on the ward, where a parent's bed will also be provided. A parent's kitchen is also available with the facility of a microwave and fridge if you are not admitted to an oncology suite.

The rooms are cleaned daily during your stay. We would appreciate it if you could take responsibility for the general tidiness, including dishwashing. Please advise nursing staff if there are any problems regarding cleanliness of the rooms.

Resident parents: There is a sofa-bed in each of the oncology suites, so one parent is welcome to stay overnight with your child.

Food: Meals are provided for patients from the trolley. This comes around at 12 midday and at 5pm. Please ask ward staff if you require food or drinks for your child at any other time. There is a fridge and microwave for your convenience in each of the oncology suites. If you have concerns about your child's diet or weight, please ask the nurse/doctor about referral to the dietitian.

See the Ward notice board or ask your nurse about restaurant and vending machine facilities for other family members and visitors.

Telephones: There are phones in each of the oncology suites for incoming calls. There is a pay phone available on the ward. If you have a mobile phone we would appreciate it if calls could be taken out in the main corridor but text messages can be made in the room.

Ward Phone No: 0118 322 7519/8105

Oncology Room 6: ext. 8015

Oncology Room 7: ext. 8017

Medication: If your child is on any medication, please bring it in its original packaging with you. For patient safety we ask you hand over **all** medication during your child's admission. It will be locked in the ward medication cupboard and administered at the usual time.

If you are running low on any of your child's medications, please contact the ward during day time hours Monday to Friday, so that they can be re-ordered for you. Be aware that, for leukaemic patients, the maintenance chemotherapy dose is determined by the most recent blood count. For safety reasons, it is written up after oncology clinic on Tuesdays so is not available until Tuesday evenings.

Complementary therapies: Complementary therapies are not discouraged but please discuss with one of the oncology team first as there can be negative interactions with some medications.

Neutropenia: If your child is neutropenic he/she will be advised not to come out into the ward area. Teachers and play therapists are available most days and will provide school work or toys, puzzles, books, videos etc. You will be able to come out and choose meals for your child from the trolley.

Infection risks: Please tell your relatives and friends that it may not be advisable to visit if they have a cold, sore throat or cold sore or if they have been in contact with anyone with an infectious illness, such as chicken pox, measles or diarrhoea and vomiting.

Chicken Pox/Measles: If your child has contact with anyone with chicken pox 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.

Parking: You will need to take a ticket at the barrier each time you enter the hospital car park. When you are discharged we will give you a permit which you need to take to the security desk in main reception to get validated to enable you to leave the car park without charge.

The Oncology Team includes:

- Consultant paediatric oncologist (based in Oxford)
- Dr A Madasseri - Consultant paediatrician with special interest in oncology
- Dr Abigail Macleod - Associate specialist paediatrician with special interest in oncology
- Stephanie Horsburgh - Senior paediatric pharmacist
- Kellie Oakley - Oncology nurse specialist (Lion Ward)

- Lesley McCarthy - Children's community nurse with special interest in oncology
- Ashley Zdanowicz - Play therapist
- Sarah O'Hagan - CLIC Sargent Social Worker
- Ines Banos - Clinical psychologist
- Rev Lorraine Colam and Rev Bob Simmonds- Trust chaplains

Consultant oncologist from Oxford attends the paediatric oncology clinic in Reading every 6-8 weeks and, in between, is in regular contact with the team at the Royal Berkshire Hospital by phone and/or email.

Consultant paediatrician & associate specialist paediatrician Both have a special interest in oncology. They review patients regularly in the children's oncology clinic (Tuesdays), look after inpatients and write up medication.

Senior paediatric pharmacist dispenses medicines, assists with writing up chemotherapy and is available to answer any queries about medication.

Nurse specialist is based on Lion Ward. She is available to answer any queries about your child's condition, treatment or on-going care and will liaise with other members of the team as required.

Members of the Children's Community Nurses Team care for children and young people with various conditions, including cancer. They will visit at home during your child's treatment to take blood specimens and to give medications. If required, as part of the multi-disciplinary team, they visit nurseries and schools to inform teachers about your child's condition.

Play specialist is available to help prepare children for their treatment, distract them during different procedures, and provide activities while they are in hospital.

In addition, the play therapist, usually in collaboration with the CLICSargent social worker, organises trips, outings and an annual Christmas party for the patient and their siblings.

CLICSargent social worker provides counselling and support, helps with applications for financial assistance, family breaks and outings and adventure holidays for patients and siblings.

Psychologist is part of the multi-disciplinary team and attends oncology clinic usually on the first Tuesday of each month and is available for appointments for your child and other members of the family.

Trust chaplain is available on request to offer counselling and emotional support.

Team members are not available 7 days, 24 hours a day; however, there will be a member of the nursing staff on duty on Lion Ward 24/7 who will give you advice and if necessary can contact the senior house officer and registrar (doctors) on-call. Your child's file will always be kept on the ward.

Doctor's rounds: Doctor's rounds are *usually* in the morning between 10am and midday. On Tuesdays, oncology clinic is held in the Children's Outpatient Department – the team do their rounds after clinic, sometime between 1.30pm and 3pm.

Support staff: including dietitians and physiotherapists, are available during normal working hours. Please ask your nurse or doctor if you require their services.

Interpreting service: Foreign language and British Sign Language interpreters can be arranged at any time. Speak to your nurse if this service is required.

Shared care: Your child's care will be shared between the Royal Berkshire Hospital and a Specialist Regional Centre – in most cases the Children's Hospital in Oxford. You may notice some differences between hospitals, as policies may vary slightly. However, the doctors at both hospitals communicate regularly and follow the same treatment protocols. The advantages of the shared-care system is that you and your child can be nearer home and other members of your family, which hopefully will minimise disruption to family life.

Clinic: We usually see families in clinic as soon as possible after discharge from the Specialist Centre. Paediatric oncology 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 a longer appointment so you do need to be prepared for a long wait on occasions.

We will arrange a follow-up appointment in clinic, preferably with both parents, approximately 4 weeks after your initial discharge from the Specialist Regional Centre. This is usually a longer appointment and gives you time to discuss any concerns at length and to go over your child's treatment plan.

Family life: Serious illness is bound to have an effect on the whole family. If you have other children they may feel left out and ignored. It will help them if you can plan some time with them when they are the centre of attention. Ask about booklets available for siblings. In addition, special outings are organised, 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 don't know the answer we will find someone who does.

Some useful organisations:

CLICSargent: Tel: 0300 330 0803. www.clicsargent.org.uk

Macmillan Cancer Support www.macmillan.org.uk

Bloodwise www.bloodwise.org.uk

This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.

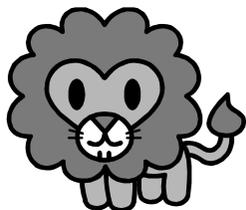
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PAED_319

Lion Ward: August 2017

Review date: August 2019