



Royal Berkshire
NHS Foundation Trust

**Please use the
hand gel provided
when entering and
leaving the Unit**

What happens in the Short Stay Unit (SSU)

Information about the SSU for
patients, relatives and carers

Welcome to the Short Stay Unit (SSU)

The SSU is a 25-bed unit specialising in the care of patients with acute medical conditions, who expect to be discharged within 48-72 hours of admission. Any patients, who are assessed as suitable for short stay care by the doctors, will be transferred to SSU from the Emergency Department (A&E), the Acute Medical Unit (AMU) or the Ambulatory Emergency Care Unit (AECU).

Your treatment

Following your initial assessment, your doctor may recommend that you remain in SSU as a short stay patient and then if appropriate, be discharged home into the care of your GP. If this is the case, you will be reviewed daily by the consultant on call and discharged home as soon as you are medically fit. Alternatively, once all test results have been reviewed, your doctor may decide to admit you and you will be transferred to a ward for your on-going care. This will happen as soon as a bed is available.

Medication

Please do not take any medicine you have brought from home, until a member of staff has checked that it is safe to do so.

Visiting times

The SSU has a set visiting policy; the times are displayed at the entrance to the unit. As space is restricted, we would appreciate it if you could limit the number of visitors to two people.

In order to provide the most up to date information about the patient's condition, we ask that relatives / friends telephone the unit after 12.00pm, by which time the consultant of the day should have completed a ward round.

We would ask that the next of kin always provides their contact telephone numbers prior to leaving the ward in case of emergency. Public parking (pay on foot) is on Levels 0-3 of the multi-storey car park.

Unit facilities

There are bedside lockers provided on the unit for storage of belongings. You are responsible for your own belongings during your stay in the SSU, and we suggest that money is kept to a minimum and any valuables are sent home.

Going home

After your admission, if the doctor decides you are well enough to go home, you will be given a letter explaining the results of your treatment. A copy of this letter will be sent to your GP, and if required, medication will be given to you. If the hospital pharmacy is closed, you will be given your prescription so that you can collect your new medications from a local pharmacy.

SSU staff

Sister – navy uniform

Senior staff nurse – royal blue uniform

Staff nurse – pale blue uniform

Health care assistant – pink or white tunic

Student – pale grey tunic

Talk to us

Please talk to a staff nurse, the nurse in charge or the ward manager if you have further questions or need to discuss any concerns about your or your relative/friend's care.

Friends and Family Test

Whatever your experience you can give feedback by answering the Friends & Family Test question – *How likely are you to recommend our service to family and friends if they need similar care or treatment?* - by filling in a card given to you by a member of staff.

Alternatively, you can send your feedback by email to:

thankyou@royalberkshire.nhs.uk.

Short Stay Unit	
Level 1 Centre Block	Tel: 0118 322 5220 or 0118 322 5218
Royal Berkshire Hospital	

<p>This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.</p>

Short Stay Unit, June 2019

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