

Visiting Times

Afternoon visiting 1pm to 7pm though we ask that mealtime visits are limited to prevent disruption to other patients.

Please be aware that there may be times when visiting restrictions are in place due to infection such as Covid 19

Visitors must wear a face mask or face covering at all times. Visitors to a patient with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 will be supported to wear extra personal protective equipment.

Who to talk to if you have any questions or concerns

Please talk to a member of the team if you have any questions or concerns.

OPAU contact details

Telephone: 01225 826958 or 826218

Alternative contact your consultants secretary

Dr Kerr: 01225 821267

Dr Evans: 01225 821028

Dr Robson: 01225 821008

Dr Wijnberg 01225 821267

OPAU is located in RUH Zone D on the ground floor. It is also called ward D1.

Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust
Combe Park, Bath BA1 3NG
01225 428331 www.ruh.nhs.uk

Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) if you require this leaflet in a different format, or would like to feedback your experience of the hospital.

Email ruh-tr.pals@nhs.net or telephone 01225 825656.

Older Persons Assessment Unit



Older Persons Assessment Unit

The RUH Older Persons Assessment Unit (OPAU) is a new model of care for frail older people.

The aim of the ward team is to provide rapid clinical assessment, investigation and treatment to help early discharge for you, to reduce the time you spend in hospital.

The team

Our team consists of dedicated nursing staff, led by the Senior Sister, Rhian Trivett who manages the unit and the nursing care provided by her team. The medical team is led by a team of geriatric Consultants, doctors and medical Nurse Practitioners. They work with physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, mental health liaison officers and social workers who all help to provide care towards early discharge.

What you can expect

When admitted to this unit you can expect to stay for 24 – 48 hours. During this time you will benefit from being seen by physiotherapists, occupational therapists or social services, depending on your needs. This is to support early discharge from hospital, to ensure you are safe when you get to your place of residence and to try to avoid unnecessary admissions to hospital in the future.

OPAU uses the 'discharge to assess' model, this means a patient is discharged as soon as they are medically fit to have an ongoing assessment. Your support needs will be assessed when you get home by members of community care and social care teams.

This helps you to access the right level of home care and support quickly. There is also increased use of third sector organisations, such as Age UK, in order to help your discharge. (Third sector organisations are non-governmental and non-profit-making, including charities and voluntary organisations.)

OPAU has a daily consultant or senior doctor ward round and a daily meeting with nurses, therapists and social services to discuss all patients on the ward and to decide the support, treatment or therapy each patient may need to ensure a safe discharge.

The ward also runs a virtual clinic for any outstanding tests or investigations once a patient has gone home. This reduces unnecessary stays whilst waiting for results.

However, if the medical team decide a patient needs a longer stay in hospital they will be moved to an older persons' ward.

Involvement in planning your discharge

The team will discuss plans for your discharge with you. If you are unable to make decisions they will keep your family or carer informed and involved in discussions about your treatment or discharge arrangements.

Keeping in touch with your family

If you have a mobile phone we encourage you to use it to keep in touch with your loved ones. However, if you need support to talk to a member of your family we have a unit mobile phone and an iPad and we will help you to use them to keep in contact with a member of your family.