

It might seem a little early but we want you to start thinking about the arrangements for your discharge to ensure you get the best follow up care.

Any Problems? Are there are any circumstances that you feel may affect your discharge, e.g. do you need to think about your normal domestic arrangements (e.g. food, heating etc) or review any care provided by Social Services? If you have any concerns please tell a member of the ward staff as soon as possible.

Sick Certificates Should you need a sick note for work please see a member of the ward staff at least the day before discharge.

Dressings Arrangements will be made should you need the district nursing service to manage your wound care and an initial four days supply of dressings provided.

Medication If you need any medication you will normally be provided with seven days supply. Any medication will be given to you before you are discharged. If you need medication for longer than seven days then you should make an appointment with your GP as soon as possible. If you have any concerns about your medication please ask to speak to a member of the pharmacy staff.

Transport Patients are expected to arrange their own transport from the hospital. If your condition is such that you need ambulance transport, then the ward staff will arrange it for you.

Informing your GP You will either be given a discharge letter to give to your GP or we will write to your GP within 24 hours of your discharge.

Discharge Lounge The discharge lounge is a comfortable place to wait on the day of your discharge or transfer and this allows beds on wards to become available for admissions. The lounge is located on Helena Ward (1st floor RUH South) and is staffed by nurses who are there to help with your arrangements. Meals and drinks are available to patients in the lounge.

Outpatient Appointments If you need to be seen again by a hospital doctor, the ward staff will make an outpatient appointment for you. Details of the appointment will be sent to you by post.

Ongoing Care During your stay you will have been consulted about continuing care and the arrangements will already be in hand.

Voluntary and Community Support Services You may find some of the services offered by community support groups useful. Details of these groups are available through:

NHS Direct 0845 46 47 or <http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/>
or

The RUH Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS), on 01225 825656 or pals@ruh-bath.swest.nhs.uk

A useful reminder list is on the back page. —————>

Please consider whether you need any of the following:

- A sick note.
- A supply of dressings and details of the arrangements made for a district nurse to visit if appropriate.
- A supply of medicines.
- Details of when you need see your GP for more tablets.

Have you:

- Made your own transport arrangements or know what has been arranged for you by the hospital?
- Been given your discharge letter for your GP or been told we will write to your GP direct?
- Arranged for your home to be prepared for your return?

Useful information for the future

(Ward staff please complete)

You were admitted to hospital for:

Your consultants name was:

Your contact number for outpatients is:

Your ongoing care needs contact is:

Name:

Telephone:

The ward you were **discharged** from was:

Name:

Date:

Telephone:

If you are being discharged to a place other than your own home the details are:

Name:

Telephone:

Leaving the Royal United Hospital

This leaflet describes some of the arrangements made for your discharge and gives a few useful contact numbers

Royal United Hospital Bath 
NHS Trust

Discharge Liaison Service Leaflet No 1 Issued May 2002.
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