

Community Assessment Unit

Patient Information

Adult Community Services



The Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website is available on the link:
<https://www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets> or scan the QR code.

Author ID: CAU Team Lead
Leaflet ref: CM 290
Version: 1.1
Leaflet title: Community Assessment Unit
Last review: August 2022
Expiry Extended: December 2022



Introduction

The Community Assessment Unit is a new Unit that is delivered by a team of dedicated specialist community practitioners who are experts in providing the most appropriate care for people who would benefit from a reablement (temporary care to help you get back to normal and stay independent) approach, focussing on their strengths and helping them to achieve optimum independence to return to their place of residence.

The specialist team is made up of a consultant in elderly care, specialist nurses and a multi-professional team including nurses, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, dietitian and speech and language therapist.

Aims

The Community Assessment Unit is a community run unit that will accommodate patients requiring step up care (from home) or step down care (from a larger hospital) in addition to community patients requiring assessment and investigations in our dedicated assessment area.

Utilising a therapy led reablement approach will ensure that the support you require is available for you to recover in your own home/community setting when you are discharged from the Unit.

Staying in hospital longer than is necessary can have a negative effect on you.

The aim of the community assessment Unit is to:

- Maintain your level of independence by reducing your hospital stay.
- Deliver quick effective care.
- Reduce the need for you to have further hospital admissions.
- Improve your wellbeing by focussing on individual strengths.

The additional community beds will assist in the delivery of right patient; right ward which will reduce the length of stay.

The Unit

The Community Assessment Unit is a short stay unit which has 21 beds including nine side-rooms and six assessment chairs for community patients requiring investigations.

The focus on the unit is to improve your wellbeing and promote your optimum independence. Unlike other hospital admissions you may have experienced, on the Community Assessment Unit you will be expected and encouraged to:

- Wear your own clothes during the day.
- Sit out of bed for periods of time, including meal times, unless unable to do so due to your medical condition.
- Participate in your own care including administering medication if possible, with support from the staff.
- Eat meals at a dining room table.

What you can expect from the team

- The Community Assessment Unit will ensure that you are treated with compassion, respect and dignity. Your individual strengths will be assessed, and the team will plan care with these in mind.
- We work closely with both health and social care and will ensure smooth safe discharge to your place of residence.
- We will work with carers and family to facilitate safe discharge.

Benefits

The benefits to you as a patient are that you will:

- Receive timely specialist assessments by community staff therefore eliminating extended hospital stays and delayed discharges while waiting for assessments.
- Will be encouraged to self-care as much as possible to prepare for discharge home or to your place of residence.
- Return home as soon as safely possible with links into health and social care.
- Receive any ongoing specialist support you require in the community.
- Know that you will have constant GP feedback.

Discharge from the Unit

You will be discharged directly from the Unit to your place of residence eliminating the need for transfer to the discharge lounge.

Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends, and carers.

Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am until 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
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WN1 2NN

Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the positives and negatives of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use, and store the information we hold about you, please see patient information leaflet, Ref. **Corp 006** How we use your information, this can be found on the Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website, see details on the front cover.

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille, and other languages upon request. For more information, please ask in the department/ward.

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