



NHS

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.

Direct access

Your child will always have direct access to Lion Ward whilst on active treatment. Please phone the ward if you have any concerns about your child's health. As your Shared Care Diary advises, 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 one 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 36.0°C, call 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. If you are not admitted to an oncology suite, a parent's kitchen is also available, with a microwave and fridge.

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.

Your child will be advised not to come out into the ward area.

Ward facilities

- Teachers and play therapists are available most days and will provide schoolwork or toys, puzzles, books, videos etc.
- **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 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 telephone number: 0118 322 7519 / 8105.**
- **Parking:** You will drive into the carpark and your car registration will be automatically recorded. When your child is discharged, we will give you a permit, which you need to take to the security desk at main reception- level 2- to get it validated to enable you to leave the car park without charge.

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 Monday to Friday, during daytime hours, so that they can be re-ordered for you.

Be aware that, for leukaemic patients, the maintenance chemotherapy dose is determined by your child's most recent blood count. This will be ready for collection at clinic visits.

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.

Infection control

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 chickenpox, measles or diarrhoea and vomiting.

If your child has contact with anyone with chickenpox 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. **There may be visiting restrictions in place in accordance with local or government infection control (Covid-19) guidelines.**

The Oncology Team includes:

- Consultant paediatric oncologist (based in Oxford)
- Dr A Madasseri – Consultant Paediatrician with special interest in oncology
- Dr P Somwanshi – Consultant Paediatrician with special interest in oncology
- Nuramira Manan – Senior Paediatric Pharmacist
- Kellie Oakley and Hannah Titcombe – Paediatric Oncology Nurse Specialists (Lion Ward)
- BHFT Community Nurse Team

- Team of play leaders
- Sarah O'Hagan – Young Lives vs Cancer Social Worker.
- Ines Banos – Clinical Psychologist
- Team of multi-faith Trust chaplains

What do each of the team do?

- The Oxford consultant oncologist is in regular contact, by phone and/or email, with the team at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. You will be able to see them at scheduled visits in Oxford.
- The consultant paediatrician has a special interest in oncology. They review patients regularly in the Children's Oncology Clinic (Tuesdays), look after inpatients and write up medication.
- The senior paediatric pharmacist dispenses medicines, assists with writing up chemotherapy and is available to answer any queries about medication.
- The nurse specialists are based on Lion Ward. They are 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. They will also visit your child at home to administer medication, and, if required, will visit nurseries and schools to inform teachers about your child's condition.
- Members of the Children's Community Nurses Team care for children and young people with various conditions. They will visit you at home during your child's treatment to take blood specimens and to help with dressings for Hickman lines.
- The play specialist is available to help prepare children for their treatment, distract them during different procedures, and provide activities while they are in hospital.
- The Young Lives versus Cancer social worker provides counselling and support, helps with applications for financial assistance, family breaks and outings and adventure holidays for patients and siblings.

- The psychologist is part of the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) and attends oncology clinics, usually on the first Tuesday of each month. She is available for appointments for your child and other members of the family.
- Trust chaplains are available on request to offer counselling and emotional support.

Team members work Monday to Friday during normal office hours. If you need advice out of these times, there will be a member of the nursing staff on duty on Lion Ward 24/7 that can help. Please ask for the paediatric co-ordinator, who will give you advice, and if necessary, can contact the doctor on call. Your child's information will always be kept on the ward.

Doctor's rounds for inpatients

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

Other useful information

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

shared-care system are 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. The 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 be prepared for a long wait on occasions.
- **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 as 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 do not know the answer, we will find someone who does.

Some useful organisations:

- Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group CCLG www.cclg.org.uk
- CLICSargent: Tel: 0300 330 0803.
www.younglivesvscancer.org.uk
- Macmillan Cancer Support www.macmillan.org.uk
- Bloodwise www.bloodwise.org.uk

Contacting us

Kellie Oakley CNS Paediatric Oncology:	0118 322 7516 / 7519 Mobile: 07557 318 971
Hannah Titcombe CNS Paediatric Oncology:	0118 322 7516 / 7519 Mobile: 07917 598 068
Children's Community Nurses:	0118 378 3932
Young Lives vs Cancer Sargent Social Worker:	01865 234006



To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

RBFT Lion Ward Oncology Unit
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