



About the Discharge Lounge

Once you are ready to leave hospital you will usually be transferred from the ward to the Discharge Lounge. This leaflet explains why you are leaving the ward and what you can expect while you wait in the Discharge Lounge to go home.



About the Lounge

- The Discharge Lounge is located in Battle Block Outpatients, on level 1 in Battle Block. It is open Monday to Friday between 7.30am and 8pm.
- On the day you leave hospital you will usually be transferred to the Discharge Lounge, where you will be looked after by registered nurse and health care assistants. The dedicated team there will communicate with your ward staff, transport crew, family members and the pharmacy to ensure you have a safe and seamless discharge.
- The Discharge Lounge is a safe, secure area with seating for 11 chairs and seven beds instead. There is tea and coffee available at any time with hot food served at meal times.
- Toilet facilities are available and our staff can assist you, if required. The Lounge staff can also administer any necessary prescribed medication while you wait.
- If you become unwell while you are waiting in the Discharge Lounge, your doctor will be called to review you.

What you can do to help the discharge process

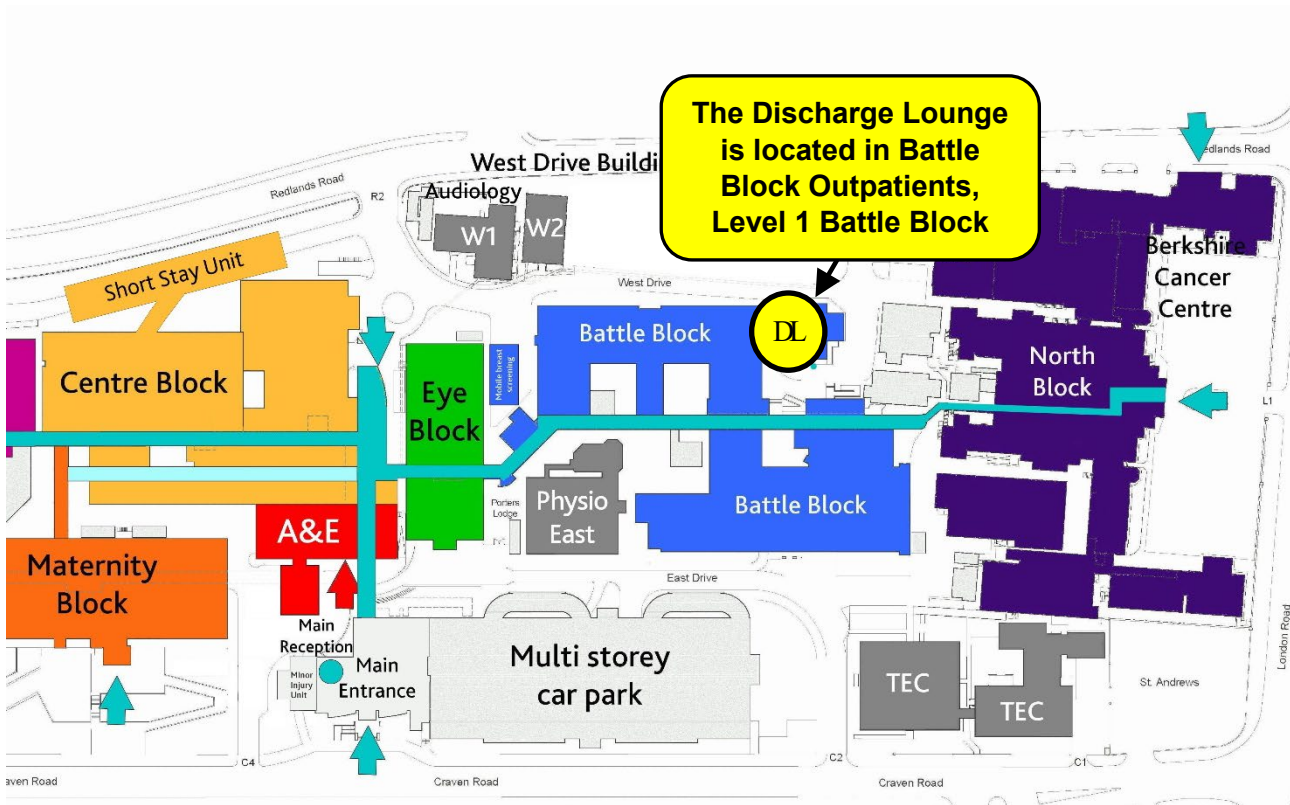
- Make arrangements for transport home (family, friend, taxi etc.). If this is difficult, let ward staff know **before** the day of discharge.
- If you need hospital transport, a member of the ward staff will book this for you.
- Let your family know where to pick you up from (the Discharge Lounge). A member of staff can help you with directions.
- Change into a suitable clothing and footwear to go home.
- Make sure your home is accessible, e.g. have your key ready, know your key safe number, have a relative or friend waiting for you at home to let you in.

What to expect on the day of discharge

- You will usually be moved from your ward to the Discharge Lounge.
- Your medication and a discharge letter will be provided and will be fully explained by either the ward nurse (if your medication is ready on the ward) or by a Discharge Lounge nurse (if your medication is ready after you've left the ward).
- Your relatives can come and collect you from the Discharge Lounge.
- If you have hospital transport booked, the ambulance crew will collect you from the Discharge Lounge.

Why you need to be moved to the Discharge Lounge

- Because your clinical team have decided you are well enough to leave hospital.
- It is a comfortable, quiet and safe place to wait while you get ready to leave hospital.
- It releases hospital beds on specialist wards for incoming, very unwell patients.
- More bed availability means reduced waiting times for emergency (A&E) patients waiting to be admitted.



Discharge Lounge contact details

Your ward name and contact number: _____

Discharge Lounge: 0118 322 3771 / 8144

Matron: Mariana Carvalho 0118 322 6722

Lead Nurse: Juliet Owusu Nelson 0118 322 8386

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 Integrated Medicine B, May 2024

Next review due: May 2026

Compassionate

Aspirational

Resourceful

Excellent