

Bramble Unit

Children's High Dependency Unit

Area H, Level 1, Wonford

Tel No: (01392) 402756/402757

The Paediatric High Dependency Unit (PHDU)

provides observation and monitoring of babies, children and young people who may have had complex operations or who have become unwell with other conditions, for example asthma or epilepsy.

We have four beds in our unit and there is usually one nurse for one or two children.

There are doctors available 24 hours per day. There is also a senior member of the nursing staff available at all times should you wish to speak with one.

Ward rounds

The paediatric (children's) doctors will see your child in PHDU usually between 9am and 11am every day and throughout the course of the day as needed. If your child has had an operation or is under the care of more than one team of doctors, your child will be seen at least daily by their team but this may not be at set times.

Transfer to other wards

When your child is well enough, they will be moved to the ward area (yellow or green team) to continue their treatment/care.

Sometimes children in PHDU require more intensive care than can be provided on Bramble and may need to be transferred to the Intensive Therapy Unit (ITU) in this hospital. Occasionally some children need to be transferred to a specialist children's hospital such as Bristol.

General information

Whilst your child is in PHDU there may be other professionals involved in their care such as physiotherapists, dieticians, pharmacists or specialist nurses.

We have play specialists available with plenty of suitable toys and books to occupy/distract children. In PHDU we have a portable DVD player and a selection of films.

During term times educational/school facilities are also available.

Any electrical items you bring in to hospital will have to be checked by a hospital electrician before they can be plugged in. This may take a few days to arrange.

We cannot take responsibility for any valuables you bring into hospital but do have facilities to lock items away if you should wish.

It is our aim to keep families and carers up-to-date and fully informed with the plan of care and progress of their children. We hope to explain everything clearly so you will understand but please ask the nurse looking after you if you have any questions, no matter how trivial you may think they are. We know that being hospital can be a challenging time for families and our experienced team of doctors and nurses will help to support you.

Parents accommodation

Whilst your child is in PHDU we will arrange for you to sleep in one of the bedrooms in the parents area on Bramble. There is a shower room and kitchen available for you to use during your stay.

(NB: we have a limited number of parent rooms so once your child is moved to the ward you will be offered a pull-out bed beside your child on the ward).

Visiting

PHDU has an open visiting policy. Brothers and sisters are welcome. We do politely ask that visitors are limited to 2 per bed please.

Mobile phones

Please ensure that your mobile is on silent mode and not used in the general ward areas of Bramble. We have designated areas where mobiles may be used. We politely request that photographs are not taken in the ward area.

WiFi

Wi-Fi is available to access so please ask your nurse for details.

Car parking

We are only able to exempt your car if you are staying in hospital with your child for more than 24 hours. You will need to purchase one parking ticket for the minimal amount and display it in your car. The ward staff will also require your car details.

Mealtimes

All meals, drinks and snacks will be provided for your child including any specific dietary needs such as dairy free or vegetarian options. If your child has been unwell and not been able to eat properly we can give advice and involve the dietician if necessary.

Please feel free to bring into hospital your own drinking bottles/cups as this will help us to reduce our plastic waste from straws and disposable cups.

Breakfast is provided for all resident parents/carers.

Breast feeding or pregnant mothers will also be offered lunch and tea.

Information

There is a parents information board in the main ward corridor. This has some general ward information such as the restaurant and shop opening times.

We are constantly aiming to provide a very high standard of care and would welcome any suggestions or comments you may have.

The Trust cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information given if the leaflet is not used by RD&E staff undertaking procedures at the RD&E hospitals.

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