

Your Child in Hospital Information for Parents

Introduction

- Bramble Children's Unit

Bramble is located on Level 1, Template H. The Unit is divided into teams: Green, Blue, Yellow, High Dependency Unit, Day Care Unit and Oncology Day Case.

The telephone numbers are:

- Green Team - 01392 402666
- Blue Team - 01392 402681
- Yellow Team - 01392 402679
- High Dependency Unit - 01392 402756
- Day Care Unit - 01392 402677
- Oncology Day Case Unit - 01392 402685

We aim to provide a high standard of care for the children and their families and carers, to treat you all as individuals, maintaining both dignity and wellbeing.

Parents and carers are encouraged to stay with their children in hospital and share their care. We believe that the doctors and nurses should work with parents and carers, as they are an essential part of the team.

Named nursing

Your child will be allocated a Named Nurse on each shift. They will be responsible for you and your child's care until shift change or discharge. All care is in partnership with the family.

Visiting or resident

- One parent is welcome to stay overnight and a chair bed will be provided next to your child. The parents of children on the High Dependency Unit will be allocated a room in the parent's area.

- Children who are sick or who have had surgery need time to rest to aid their recovery. We ask visitors to be mindful of this whilst visiting Bramble Ward.
- Brothers, sisters and visiting children are welcome. They may use the play facilities but we require them to be supervised by an adult whilst using the playroom.
- We like to settle the children by 8.00pm and therefore ask that only main carers visit after that time.
- We have a parent's area with a sitting room, bathroom and kitchen with a kettle, fridge and microwave. Tea, coffee, milk and sugar are provided by the ward. Please bring your own food.
- We provide breakfast for resident parents. Other refreshments are available from the Oasis Restaurant and other Hospital facilities.
- Meals and snacks are provided for breast feeding and pregnant mums.
- There is a patient information board with details of the hospitals facilities.
- Baby changing and breast feeding facilities are available. Please ask a member of staff.

What to bring into hospital

- Your child will need toiletries, favourite toys and loose comfortable clothing.
- Please leave expensive/valuable toys or jewellery at home. It is Hospital policy that all electrical equipment is PAT tested. Therefore, please ensure any electrical games are fully charged.

- Bring in any medicines your child is taking and give them to your nurse.

For babies and toddlers please bring in:

- Red record book. We can then record the details of your babies admission.
- Special toys, cuddly blanket or comforter
- Any special formula milk including progress types. We have SMA Gold, Cow and Gate Premium First and Aptamil First.
- Any special feeding bottles, teats or cutlery required by your child.
- A supply of disposable nappies. Please dispose of dirty nappies in the correct bins. Please ask your nurse if you are unsure which bin to use.
- If your child has special needs please bring any specific equipment that would be helpful for your child's stay. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the ward to speak with a member of the nursing staff.

Planned admissions

Before admission please:

- Help your child to adjust to coming into hospital by talking about their admission in every day conversation.
- Tell them why they are coming in.
- Talk to them about the different people they are likely to meet.
- Explain that they may have a chaperone with them when being examined. It can be an adult from the child's family /carer or a nurse.
- Allow your child time to ask questions. If they have any questions that you are unable to answer please phone the team your child is being admitted to (numbers are in the front of this booklet).
- Please phone the unit if you would like to arrange a visit for your child prior to planned surgery.

- To help your child prepare for admission there are also a number of books that are available in shops or libraries.

- Please ensure you have a supply of Paracetamol and Ibuprofen at home when your child is discharged (should they need it).
- Visit the Bramble page on the RD&E website.

General information

Playroom and school

Playroom

The Playroom is staffed Monday to Friday by Hospital Play Specialists who provide a range of toys and activities for children and young people.

Activities can be provided at the bedside for patients who are unable to attend the playroom.

School Rooms

The Devon Hospitals Short Stay School is a local authority school that provides education for pupils aged 4 to 16 (although in some cases, support can also be offered for older pupils) It is run by a teaching team consisting of qualified teachers and a teaching assistant and operates during Devon term times. Teaching aims to follow the same curriculum that would be taught at the pupils' main schools and these are contacted if pupils attend hospital for long periods of time or attend frequently.

For more information, visit the school website: www.devonhec.org.uk

Transport

If you are on income support or need help with transport into hospital, please visit the Patient Transport Service page on the RD&E website.

Parking

Parking in the hospital is by pay and display.

The Hospital Park and Ride service runs Monday – Friday from Digby to Wonford Hospital

If you are likely to be resident for more than the day inform your nurse as your car may be made exempt from charges.

Security

To ensure the safety of the children on Bramble the doors to the Unit are locked at all times. Please make sure that the doors are closed behind you. To gain access to the Unit please use the intercom system at the front door.

Other facilities

The following facilities are available in the Hospital.

- **Cash point** – in the main concourse and Oasis Restaurant.
- **WH Smith** – open 6.30am-9.00pm Monday to Friday and 7.00am to 9.00pm on Saturday and Sunday. Food, confectionary, milk, papers, magazines, toiletries, cards, flowers etc. are available. In the main concourse.
- **Post Box** – collections at noon and 5.30pm. In the main concourse
- **Bus Service** – this runs from the main entrance. See board for times.
- **Fine Fillings** – bakery, open from 8.00am-7.45pm Monday to Friday. In the main concourse.
- **Oasis Restaurant** – open everyday from 7.30am-7.30pm. It is situated on Area D, Level 2.
- **Boots** – situated on Level 1, Area P. Open 9.00am-6.00pm Monday to Friday and 9.00am-1.00pm Saturday. Dispensing of RD&E out-patient prescriptions, plus sales of over-the-counter medicines, health related sundries, toiletries, beauty and baby products. Plus a range of snacks and meal deals.
- **Hospital Chapel** – located on Area E, Level 2. The chapel is always open and Chaplains are available at all times to help meet religious and spiritual needs. A church service is conducted at 10.30am on Sundays.

Please also note:

- The Hospital has a no smoking policy anywhere in the Hospital buildings or grounds.

- Mobile telephones are only permitted to be used in the parent's area. Pay phones are available in the main concourse and Oasis Restaurant. Telephone access is also available from the bedside televisions.
- There is no internet access.

Going Home

- You may be asked to bring your child to an outpatients appointment. The date and time for this will either be given to you or sent to you after discharge.
- If you need to attend the Day Care Unit you will either be given an appointment or be contacted to arrange a suitable appointment time.
- You may be asked to attend your family GP or practice nurse for removal of sutures or for follow up.

Your nurse will answer any queries or give advice prior to discharge. There is always a senior paediatric nurse or matron available to help you with any questions or concerns.

We are sure your stay on Bramble will be a comfortable one.

Please talk to us

If you are unhappy or concerned about any aspect of care and experience on Bramble ward, no matter how trivial it may seem, please do not hesitate to speak to our Matrons whilst you are here.

We are happy to take time to talk through any issues you may have in confidence.

We can help resolve issues you raise quickly and also take prompt action wherever possible to help resolve your concerns.

Children also have the right to raise concerns about their care or experience

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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