What to expect on admission to the Combined Assessment Unit

Information for you

Mission Statement
Our combined assessment unit aims to deliver a high quality, evidence-based care to patients, in a person-centred, safe and effective manner by early assessment, early senior clinical decision-making and treatment by the multidisciplinary team. We will provide a safe, caring and respectful environment.

The CAU opened in April 2016. Patients are referred by their GP or the Emergency Department for investigations, management and sometimes for admission of medical conditions. Most patients will be seen by nursing staff, a junior doctor and a consultant and then a diagnosis, treatment and management plan is made. We also have a team of allied health professionals – pharmacists, physiotherapists and occupational therapists who may also have input into your assessment. Further tests or admission may be required. Many people will be discharged directly from the unit.

The CAU has different areas with different functions. This leaflet explains what to expect within the bedded admission area.

Reception: 01563 826840
• A junior doctor will ask you about the condition that brought you to hospital and any existing health problems. They will then examine you and explain what they feel may be wrong, discussing any further investigations or treatment needed. Your medicines will be checked and kept in your locked bedside cabinet, to be given to you when required.

• There are consultant ward rounds several times a day and once seen by a consultant your care plan may change. If you are admitted later in the day it may be the following morning you are seen.

During your admission

• We aim to keep you informed of your clinical condition and discuss any tests or treatment we feel necessary as well as the need for either hospital admission or discharge home.

• Whenever new staff attend to you, they should always introduce themselves and provide their job title.

• Whenever people are ill and not moving much they are at risk of venous thromboembolism (VTE) – blood clots. All patients will have a risk assessment made by the admitting junior doctor and if appropriate, receive a daily injection of heparin, a blood thinner, to reduce this risk. We also encourage people to be as mobile as possible during their admission as this also reduces the risk of VTE.

• If you are to stay in hospital you will likely be moved to another ward within the main hospital building for the remainder of your investigations and treatment.

• If you are to go home and require medicines we will dispense them before you leave.

• If you require physiotherapy or social support we have a large team of allied health professionals who will assess and assist you as appropriate. A pharmacist is likely to clarify your medicine with you within the first day or two.

• If you have any concerns regarding your care in CAU please speak to the staff caring for you or Charge Nurse on duty.

Flexible visiting is between 1pm - 9pm Monday to Sunday

Please speak to staff if these times do not suit. Visitors may be asked to leave rooms if assessments or procedures take place.

Meal Times:

• Breakfast 8am
• Lunch 12noon
• Dinner 5pm

We practice protected meal times so visitors may be asked to step out during this time unless you wish to be assisted by a relative.