

An Easy Read booklet



Going into hospital

What happens on admission

If you are ill, your doctor may say you need to go to hospital to help you get better.

Sometimes, you go into hospital, have your treatment and go home the same day.



Sometimes, you may need to stay in hospital for a longer time.



Sometimes, if you are very ill or hurt, you may need to go to the Accident and Emergency department – and they might send you to a ward – ‘admit’ you.

This leaflet will tell you what happens when you are admitted.



When you arrive on the ward, a nurse will show you to your bed.



He or she will tell you where to put your things and will show you where the nearest toilet is.



He or she will also show you how to ring the bell to call a nurse.

The nurse will then ask you and your carer some questions. Your answers will help us to give you the right treatment.



The nurse will put a plastic bracelet on you. This has important information on and it should be worn all the time.



You will be asked to get undressed behind the curtains and to change into your nightie or pyjamas and dressing gown.



During your stay in hospital you will meet many different people.



All the staff in the hospital wear a name badge and when they speak to you, they should always tell you their name.



Near your bed, there will be a bottle of hand gel – this is rubbed on the hands to kill germs.



The staff who treat you should wash their hands often and



everyone who visits you, even your friends and carers, should use the hand gel.

Always wash your hands after you have been to the toilet.



The nurses and doctors will explain everything that happens to you and to your carer.



If you don't understand what is happening or you are frightened, tell your carer or the nurse or doctor.



You or your carer may be asked to sign a form to say you want to have treatment.



As well as the call bell, there is a light and a radio next to your bed.



Most beds also have a television, phone and computer by the bed. Ask the nurse how to use them.



A trolley visits the ward, selling snacks, toiletries and magazines.



The staff will ask if you want tea or coffee and you will be offered three meals a day.



The nurses can help you fill in your menu card to decide what you want to eat the next day.



If you need help eating or drinking, ask one of the staff to help you.

The nurses will give you tablets if you need them. If you feel sick or you are hurting, ring your call bell for the nurse.



Visiting times are usually between 2pm and 8pm but your carer can visit you or sometimes stay with you for a longer time.



If you or your carer needs help while you are in the hospital, ask one of the nurses to either call the Learning Disability Co-ordinator on ext 8159 or PALS on ext 8338.



More information for people with learning disabilities and their carers can be found on the Trust website at: www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk



Also available in this series:

- Getting help in hospital
- Having a blood test
- Having an X-ray
- Having a scan
- Going to A&E
- Going to CDU
- What happens in pre-operative assessment
- Giving consent
- Having a general anaesthetic
- Washing your hands



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