



Patient Information

Welcome to the Medical Day Unit

Information for patients attending the Medical Day Unit

This information leaflet has been designed to provide information for patients attending the Medical Day Unit (MDU) located in Swindon Intermediate Care Centre. If you have any further questions then please speak to your doctor or nurse specialist who will be more than happy to help. This leaflet is not designed to replace the more specific leaflets that you might be given by your consultant or clinical nurse specialist.

The Medical Day Unit treats patients with conditions needing medical treatment. For example Arthritis, chest conditions, Crohn's disease requiring treatment with intravenous medicines like monoclonal antibody treatment. Some chemotherapy treatments are also given on MDU.

What happens before I have my treatment?

Before the nurse can administer your treatment there are many checks to complete to ensure your safety. Some of these checks are completed before you attend; some are completed on the day of your treatment. Your doctor or nurse will advise what tests and investigations are needed and when to get them done.

Why are there so many checks?

The team of doctors, pharmacist and nurses carry out the checks to ensure that the right medicine is given to you and at the correct dose and to ensure no medicine is wasted.

Where is my medication made?

Some of the medication is made by the nurses on the unit; other medication is made in the main Pharmacy, Bath Aseptic Unit or Boots depending on the type of medication. To reduce the risk of harm all treatments require staff to have specific training before they can be involved in the making up, dispensing or administering of the treatment.

When is the medication made up?

Some medication is made in advance and stored in Pharmacy. These medicines are reviewed on the day and then sent to the Medical Day Unit for the nurse to administer. This is not possible for all medication and therefore some medication is brought in from Bath Aseptic Unit and this arrives either on the day of treatment and where possible, the day before.



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Why can't all medicines arrive the day before treatment?

Some medicines have a very short expiry time and therefore cannot be made up in advance. These medicines normally arrive on the day of treatment.

Other medicines are made once blood results have been reviewed as the final dose is dependent on the blood results.

Process of preparation for your medication

24 – 72 hours in advance

- your doctor or nurse prescribes your treatment.
- The prescription is reviewed by the Pharmacy team to ensure that the dose is correct considering your weight and blood results and other tests.
- The medication is requested to be made ready.

On the day of treatment

- You arrive in the Medical Day Unit and the administrator registers your arrival.
- The nurse checks your observations and ensures you are well. If you are unwell the nurse will contact your doctor or specialist nurse to discuss your treatment and ensure it is safe for you to continue.
- If the doctor or specialist nurse wants to review you before you have your treatment this might delay the start of your treatment.
- If your doctor or specialist nurse considers it unsafe to administer your treatment this will be explained and you will be provided with a new appointment.
- If you are able to continue the nurse will order your treatment.
- Pharmacy completes the treatment checks with two Pharmacists. Checks include review of bloods, notes from the doctor, checking drug name, dose, your name, and a visual check for any damage to the bag or syringe.
- Pharmacy releases the medicines for the nurse to give.
- Nurse completes checks on the unit with a second Registered Nurse.
- Medicine administered.

What can I expect from my treatment day appointment?

A specialist treatment nurse will assess you and ensure all pre-treatment checks are completed before starting your treatment. You will have an opportunity to ask any questions about your treatment, the side effects of treatment, or how long it might take for each session.

You will then be allocated a named nurse for the day of your treatment session. Your treatment will be given with you seated in a recliner chair. Please feel free to bring a book, laptop or tablet computer to use whilst having treatment. Please ensure this is fully charged as you are not allowed to charge on the unit. There is public access Wi-Fi available throughout Medical Day Unit. Please ask at reception for log-in details.



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For patients receiving treatment, we offer chilled food, as this reduces food smells which can be unpleasant for some patients and drinks are available throughout the day. Toilets facilities are nearby, which can be used during treatment.

Once your treatment is completed, the nurse will ensure your next appointment is booked and provide you with a blood test form for your next treatment, if needed.

There is always a senior nurse on duty. If you wish to speak to them about any concerns, just ask the nurse looking after you.

What should I do if I feel unwell at home?

If you feel unwell at home after treatment you will need to follow the instructions from your consultant or specialist nurse.

Peripheral Inserted Central Catheter (PICC).

Some treatments need to be given via a PICC line and this needs to be placed in your arm before starting treatment. Other treatments are given through a cannula in a vein in the hand or arm. Please speak to your doctor or nurse if you require more information.

What should I do if I can't attend my appointment for treatment or PICC line?

If you are unable to attend your appointment for treatment or your PICC please contact 01793 646320 and speak to the booking clerk.

The hours of work are 09.00 – 17.00 and there is an answerphone that is checked throughout the day. The booking clerk is not able to answer questions about your treatment or change any other hospital appointments.

What if I can't attend my out-patient appointment or need to make any changes?

If you are unable to attend your out-patient appointment please contact us on 01793 603154 or 604050 and speak to the out-patient booking clerk. Monday – Friday 09.00 – 17.00.

Other useful numbers:

PICC team 01793 604765

Monday-Friday 08.00-17.30 An answerphone is available.



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Notes

Use the space below to write down any questions you might have or to make notes.

This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net

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