

Regional Affective Disorders Service

Inpatient unit



Information you will find useful during
your stay

This Welcome Pack belongs to.....

Your Named Nurse is.....

Your Consultant Psychiatrist is.....

The Ward Manager is.....

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Welcome

This Welcome Pack provides information about the Regional Affective Disorder inpatient unit, the staff, and the treatments and therapies that will be available to you. It contains a lot of information, so it may be helpful to read a bit at a time.

Your named nurse will discuss the Welcome Pack with you when you are first admitted and will try to answer any questions about its contents during your stay. There is a service leaflet available which provides specific information about the ward.

Please keep this pack and all of your personal information in a safe place and do not share your information with other patients.

The Trust greatly values the very important work of family and friends caring for people who use our services. We believe that carers should be involved in decisions made about the person they care for and we will give carers the opportunity to be involved in decisions about your care and treatment.

Admission

What does admission to hospital involve?

Coming into hospital can be a distressing experience for you and your loved ones. Whether this is the first time that you have been admitted, or if you have been here before, we recognise that this is a difficult time. We will support you as much as possible during your stay.

Where possible a pre-admission visit to the unit will be arranged to meet the Multi Disciplinary Team (MDT) to discuss a plan for admission.

Why have I come to hospital?

You have been admitted to the ward so that your mental health needs can be fully assessed. The ward provides a place of safety where specialist team members can offer the care that best meets your needs.

The aim of admission is to aid your recovery, helping you to return to your everyday life by finding the treatment that is right for you.

Wherever possible, staff will try to involve you in decisions about your care.

What will happen when I arrive?

On arrival you will be welcomed by a member of the team who will show you around the ward.

- Bedroom - you will be shown your room. We will try and keep your bedroom the same one throughout your stay, however there may be circumstances when we have to ask you to move rooms but only if there is a clinical need on the ward.
- Personal belongings - a member of staff will also show you where you can leave your belongings.
- Toilet, bathroom, TV and telephone - we will show you where these are.
- Lounge/sitting room - you will be shown the sitting room and when you feel well enough you will be introduced to other people on the ward.

You will also be given a copy of this Welcome Pack and advised of who your named nurse will be.

What will I need during my stay?

Bed linen and towels are supplied and will be replaced regularly during your stay.

Where can I store my things?

You may have access to a small locker where you can keep your clothes and personal belongings. The Patients Finance Office will store any money or valuables for safekeeping and provide you with a receipt for your items.

What should I bring with me?

You may bring the following items to make your stay more comfortable:

- Nightwear, dressing gown and slippers
- Toiletries
- Watch
- Telephone numbers, address book, writing materials
- Sweets, snacks
- Books, magazines, reading glasses

Is there anything that I cannot bring onto the ward?

The following items must not be brought into hospital:

- Large amounts of cash, cheque books, credit cards
- Valuable jewellery
- Sharp objects
- Razor blades should be handed to staff
- Alcohol and any non-prescribed or illicit drugs. (If illegal drugs are found the Police will be contacted)
- Weapons of any kind
- Offensive literature

This is not a full list and staff will inform you of any other items that are not allowed on your ward.

How will my needs be assessed?

Soon after arriving on the ward a series of assessments will take place which look in detail at your needs. Your carer, family and friends, with your permission, can also be involved in discussions. The assessments will be recorded in your care plan.

These include:

An assessment of your state of mental health – this involves staff talking with you and monitoring your activity. In some cases a member of staff may need to be with you at all times.

An assessment of your social situation and needs – this looks at your housing, employment, leisure and family welfare issues.

A risk assessment – this helps maintain your safety.

A physical healthcare assessment – this involves being examined by a doctor and various tests such as blood pressure, blood tests and urine sample testing. Some medications require these tests to be repeated regularly.

Within 72 hours the team will carry out a detailed assessment of your needs. A care plan will be completed which sets out the care and treatment you require during your stay. You are entitled to be involved in decisions about your care plan and will receive a copy to keep. If you agree we will also share this information with your carer.

Planned one to one contact sessions

You can expect to have at least two one to one sessions per week with your named nurse. Other members of the nursing team are also available and able to support your needs in the absence of your named nurse.

What are contact sessions?

Contact sessions are an opportunity to develop a therapeutic relationship between yourself and nursing staff. They will focus on your individual needs and your journey towards recovery. This may be based on your Recovery Star, which is a tool that enables staff to support and work with you to understand your recovery and plot your progress.

What can I talk about at the contact sessions?

You can discuss any issues that you feel are important to you. These may include:

- Changes in your mental health, your mood, thoughts, feelings and symptoms etc
- Your observation levels or Mental Health Act status
- Your current medication, side effects you may be experiencing
- Any physical health or drug and alcohol issues
- Your sleep pattern, appetite
- Leave arrangements, any requests you may have
- Your coping strategies
- Social circumstances, i.e. accommodation, finances etc

What choices do I have?

Throughout your stay there will be opportunities for you to be involved in discussions about your care. Your wishes will be carefully listened to and treatment decisions should have your agreement.

If you have come into hospital on a voluntary basis then you are free to leave the ward as and when you choose. It would be beneficial to speak to a member of staff before deciding to leave the ward to make sure that your safety and welfare are not compromised. The Trust produces a booklet about your rights as an informal/voluntary patient, copies are available from staff or the Patient Information Centre Tel: 0191 246 7288.

However, there may be times when this is not possible. If you are 'sectioned' under the Mental Health Act staff may have the power to prevent you from leaving the ward or to insist that you take medication. Such decisions will only be made in your best interest, when staff believe you are at serious risk.

Sharing information with carers

We recognise that sharing information between carers and staff is vital to your care and treatment.

Providing your carer with information about care plans and medication, and advising them on managing a crisis, can help them to deal with difficult situations.

Advance Decisions

Advance decisions are about making choices about your healthcare while you are well. In mental health, this means that your wishes can be taken into account if you ever become mentally incapable of making informed choices during a crisis.

An advance decision can be spoken or written down and should be reviewed regularly. Only an advance decision to refuse treatment is legally binding; you cannot demand certain treatments but can state your preferred options.

The Trust produces an Advance Decisions and Statements booklet, copies are available from staff or the Patient Information Centre Tel: 0191 246 7288.

If you are detained under the Mental Health Act, there may be circumstances where you are given treatment that you have previously stated you do not want. This decision will only be taken if your refusal would have a severe impact on your treatment.

Changing your consultant or getting a second opinion

The Trust produces a booklet about how patients can request a change of consultant or second opinion. This leaflet is available from staff or the Patient Information Centre 0191 246 7288.

What does the Mental Health Act 1983 mean for me?

Mental Health Act 1983

You may be kept in hospital even if you want to go home, this is sometimes called 'sectioned' or 'detained'. You will always be given an explanation and written information should this happen so you understand what your rights are. Sometimes this could mean we give you medication for mental disorder without your consent. However, we will always include you in decision making about your care and treatment.

Factsheets on each section of the Mental Health Act are available on the wards – please ask a member of staff for a copy relevant to your circumstances. Copies are also available from the Mental Health Act Office and Patient Information Centre website www.cntw.nhs.uk/pic/mha

Mental Capacity Act 2005

Sometimes people are so unwell that they are unable to make some decisions for themselves; this is called 'lacking capacity'. We will always assume you have the mental capacity to make decisions unless an assessment has been carried out to establish that you do not have capacity. Where people 'lack capacity' we will always act in their best interests.

Informal/voluntary patients

An informal/voluntary patient is someone who has agreed to come into hospital. This means they have the right to leave the ward at any time although we do ask that patients stay on the ward for the first few days so that patients and staff can get to know each other. Please be aware that staff have a duty of care towards patients, and the staff are expected to know where they are at all times. Staff are also required to assess patients before they leave the ward. If staff have concerns about the patient leaving the ward, they must arrange a further assessment. The outcome of this assessment will be discussed with the patient (and carer where appropriate) and may result in patients not being allowed to leave the ward. The Trust produces a booklet about your rights as an informal/voluntary patient, copies are available from staff or the Patient Information Centre Tel: 0191 246 7288.

Locked doors

Please be aware that it is normal for most of the exit doors in our inpatient areas to be locked. This is for patient's security and safety. Patients should always know how and if they can leave the ward and peoples individual circumstances can differ greatly. If patients are unsure about how and if they can leave the ward they should always ask staff to give them information about this.

Stay

Can you tell me about the Trust?

Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust provides mental health, learning disability and neuro-rehabilitation services to a population of 1.7 million people in North Cumbria, Northumberland, Newcastle, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Gateshead and Sunderland.

We are one of the largest mental health and disability organisations in the country with an income of £380 million and 7,000 staff. We operate from over 70 sites and provide a range of comprehensive services including regional and national specialist services.

Practical things to think about ...

There are likely to be many practical things to consider while you are in hospital. Your named nurse and other ward staff can help you.

For example, you may need to:

- Make arrangements for the care of your children or others
- Get somebody to take care of your pets
- Get a change of clothing
- Pay urgent or outstanding bills
- Cancel/rearrange appointments
- Contact employers
- Disconnect gas and electricity
- Notify the benefits office
- Make your community team aware of your admission, inform your care co-ordinator.

What happens to my benefits while I am in hospital?

Staff on the ward can help you with any financial concerns while you are in hospital. For example, they can complete an inpatient medical certificate to verify your inability to work, or write letters on your behalf to resolve financial issues. Staff will also help you to understand your benefit entitlements.

A few frequently asked questions are answered below:

Will being in hospital affect my benefits?

This depends upon what type of benefits you were receiving before your admission. If you were claiming Income Support prior to your admission you are entitled to the same benefits for one year. Other benefits can be affected by a hospital admission so it is important that the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is informed. If you were transferred from prison, staff will assist you to claim for any new benefits that you might be entitled to.

Where can I get help to sort out my benefits?

Staff will refer you to Patients Finance if you need any advice or support on benefits. You can also speak to someone from the Citizens Advice Bureau on the Tyneadvice line Tel: 0344 245 1288. Or for information online please go to www.citizensadvice.org.uk

What happens when I leave hospital?

This depends on your individual circumstances. In most cases if your money was reduced while you were in hospital it should revert to the full amount when you are discharged. The DWP need to be informed of your discharge to make these calculations.

If you are granted overnight or hostel leave you are eligible to full entitlement for those dates.

What is life like on the ward?

The following information will tell you a little about life on the ward.

Meetings

Each week you will be asked to attend both of the following meetings.

The nursing team will hand over to ward consultant and junior doctors weekly regarding your progress over the week. You will then receive a 1:1 with ward consultant to discuss any issues and current plan.

You will be asked to attend ward round weekly with the multi disciplinary team to discuss your current plan and set plan for the next week.

We encourage any community support you may have and would like to involve them within your care and treatment by inviting community teams to regular ward round meetings, we would also like to involve families and carers in your care and treatment by inviting them to regular ward round meetings.

Community meetings

Take place on a regular basis. They give you an opportunity to meet with staff and other patients to discuss and resolve issues on the ward.

Housekeeping

Keeps the ward clean and tidy, a housekeeping service is provided within all inpatient areas every day. There may also be a washing machine for you to do your own laundry.

Meals

Your meals will be provided on the ward. You will be offered a menu and you choose your meals in advance. Drinks are available 24 hours a day. On some wards you will be encouraged to prepare your own meals. If you have special dietary needs or cultural needs please discuss these with your named nurse.

Protected meal times

Arrangements are in place so you can enjoy your meal without any interruptions.

Toilets and bathrooms

The ward has toilets, showers and baths for you to use as you need.

Garden

All wards have access to a garden, which you will be able to use throughout the day.

Visitors

Your family, friends and carers are welcome to visit you. There is a room on the ward where you can spend time with your visitors. Please ask a member of staff about visiting times. There is overnight accommodation available on the St Nicholas Hospital site for up to 3 visitors. Please ask ward staff for more details.

Telephones

There is a payphone on the ward that can be used for personal calls. You can also use your own mobile phone. Your family, friends and carers can also use these numbers to make calls to you.

Staff you may meet on the ward

A multi-disciplinary team approach is taken to your care on the ward. This means that there are many different people available to help you. Staff include:

Nursing

- **Ward Manager** – the ward manager is a nurse, is responsible for your care and provides both managerial and clinical leadership to all staff on the ward.
- **Senior Clinical Nurse Lead** – Provides clinical leadership and guidance to all staff on the ward and will deputise in the absence of ward manager.
- **Nurse in charge** – this is the nurse who is in charge of a shift and is responsible for ensuring the smooth running of the ward.
- **Staff Nurse** – a qualified nurse who is a Registered Mental Health Nurse.
- **Named Nurse** – is responsible for co-ordinating your nursing care while you are on the ward. They will be introduced soon after your admission and will be your key point of contact during your stay. All named nurses are staff nurses.
- **Support Worker, Nursing Assistant, Health Care Assistant** – supports the nursing staff in caring for you.

Medical

- **Consultant Psychiatrists** – are the most senior doctors in the hospital, with overall responsibility for your care. They lead on important decisions about your treatment and discharge. You will be introduced to your Consultant within 72 hours of admission and continue to meet regularly.
- **Higher trainees** – are experienced psychiatrists who are working towards becoming consultants.
- **Ward doctors** – are training to become psychiatrists or GPs. They will be available to you on a regular basis with regard to your physical and mental health and your care plan.
- **Pharmacy staff** – the pharmacy team ensures that you receive your medication in a safe and effective manner whilst you are on the ward. The team can offer advice on medicines and any side effects. If you would like to speak to a member of the pharmacy team whilst on the ward, ask one of the nursing staff who will let the team know.

Therapists

- **Occupational Therapists (OTs)** – will provide therapeutic groups and activities throughout your stay.
- **Physiotherapists** – work with you to help restore movement. They provide any necessary physiotherapy assessment and treatment.

- **Exercise Therapists** – will devise specific therapeutic exercise programmes depending on your aims and objectives. The exercise therapy department provides a weekly programme of exercise groups which are both hospital and community based. They will also help you to make positive lifestyle changes eg healthy eating, stopping smoking.
- **Speech and Language Therapists** – assess and treat speech, language and communication problems in people of all ages to help them better communicate. They also work with people who have eating and swallowing problems.
- **Dietitians** – are experts in food and nutrition. They provide dietary advice on a wide variety of conditions using the most up to date information. They help promote healthy eating habits and well balanced diets based on individual needs.

Other staff

- **Students** – the Trust supports the teaching of students from various professions. From time to time you may be asked whether a student can be present or deliver part of your care. Your verbal consent will be sought and you have the right to refuse. All students are supervised by a qualified member of staff.
- **Service Assistant** – will ensure that there is a high level of cleanliness maintained on the ward.
- **Ward Clerk** – provides administration support and assists in the smooth running of the ward.

Words and phrases

You might hear the following words and phrases when you are in hospital.

Care Co-ordination – this is a way of helping and supporting people with mental health problems. It starts as soon as you come into contact with mental health services. It is the system that ensures that you receive help and support from the health service, social or voluntary sector.

Care Plan – this is a way of recording the help and support you need and explains how this will be done.

Multidisciplinary Team Meeting (MDT) or Ward Reviews – this is when all of the professionals involved in your care meet to discuss your progress with you, and your carers if appropriate. This meeting takes place on the ward.

Observation – this is an important tool nurses use which helps us to get to know you and to help us maintain your safety whilst you are in hospital. You will always be fully informed if you are being observed and given the reasons why.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) – This service provides help, advice and guidance to users of the NHS and their families.

- North of Tyne – 0800 032 02 02, Monday to Friday 9am-4.30pm

Person Centred Care – Staff are committed to person centred care which ensures that you are the focus of all activity concerning you and you are fully involved in all aspects of your care.

RiO – This is the system that the Trust uses to securely store electronic patient records. For further information see page 17 'Information the Trust keeps about you'.

What treatment will be available?

Your care in hospital will comprise of a number of different treatments. The main treatments on offer are outlined here.

Medication

Your doctor may prescribe medication to help treat your illness. A ward doctor can usually answer any questions you have about your medication or how it works.

A pharmacist will be available to assist with concerns or queries.

There are also many leaflets available with detailed information about individual medications. Staff on the ward will be able to supply these.

Pharmacy Medicines Information Helpline

The Trust has a helpline for confidential advice about medication. You and your carer can call the helpline between 9am and 5pm. The helpline number is 0191 245 6604.

Psychology

Clinical Psychologists help improve a person's sense of wellbeing and mental health. They help people to think about possibilities for change and alternative ways of coping. Clinical Psychologists do not prescribe medication.

Occupational Therapy

The main aim of occupational therapy is to assist your recovery by encouraging you to take part in activities that have meaning and value for you.

During your stay in hospital, Occupational Therapists (OTs) will look at your strengths and needs. An individual treatment programme will be developed and reviewed with you, which may be a mixture of one-to-one sessions and group activities. These take place in the hospital setting, Occupational Therapy department or community venues.

The following list gives examples of some of the activities that are available:

- Daily living skills to develop or improve your skills in areas like cooking, shopping, budgeting and other day-to-day activities.
- Health promotion with advice on healthy eating, exercise and stress management.
- Work, training and education to help you develop the skills and confidence to take part in paid or unpaid work, courses and training.
- Leisure activities such as pursuing a hobby or sport.
- Relating to yourself and others to improve your confidence and self esteem and help you to develop coping strategies.

The current programme for your ward will be displayed on the wall.

Exercise Therapy

The main aim of Exercise Therapy is to provide exercise as a therapeutic activity to improve your mental and/or physical health which will contribute to your overall recovery. You will receive an assessment with the exercise therapist and based on your goals an individual exercise plan will be developed. You will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of exercise groups including gym, cycling, walking, circuit training, badminton, healthy eating and weight management. You will receive regular progress reviews to monitor your progress and help achieve your goals. You will receive support to continue with your exercise plan after discharge from the ward.

What about my religious, spiritual and cultural needs?

If you have religious or cultural needs the staff will help to support you. This could include needing a different diet or dressing differently. You can talk to a chaplain if you would like to. We have a team of chaplains from different faith communities who can be available to visit you throughout the week, including weekends.

St Nicholas Hospital

There is a Christian service in the Hospital Chapel on Tuesday mornings from 9.45am to 10.15am. The Chapel may also be used at any time for personal prayers. A prayer-mat and wudu ablution facilities are provided for Muslims. Please ask staff or call at the chapel for a most up-to-date leaflet concerning Spiritual Care at St Nicholas Hospital.



Interpreters

Staff can arrange an interpreter if you need one.

Can I smoke?

Our Trust is Smokefree

All of our Trust sites are now completely smokefree which means that you and your visitors are not allowed to smoke anywhere on our sites. This is part of our approach to support service users and staff to achieve a healthy lifestyle and reduce the harmful effects of smoking.

Smoking materials are prohibited items

Smoking materials are prohibited items on Trust sites. If you come into hospital with tobacco products, cigarettes, lighters or matches, they will need to be given to staff. Cigarettes and tobacco products will be returned to you on discharge from the ward on request. Alternatively they can be given to a family member or carer to take home with them. Tobacco products, cigarettes, lighters or matches will not be given back to you for any periods of leave from the ward.

Visitors are asked not to bring any cigarettes or tobacco products (including lighters) on to the ward.

Smoking on Trust sites

Smoking anywhere on Trust sites is not permitted and is a breach of the law (the Smoke Free Regulations) to smoke inside any building which may result in a fine of up to £200.

Helping us to maintain this policy protects other service users, staff and the care environment.

Support to stay smokefree during your admission

We are able to offer you nicotine replacement products such as patches, inhalators and lozenges on admission to keep you comfortable and craving-free. Please talk to your named nurse/key worker to access these. We also have trained advisors on the wards who can help you to stay smokefree and manage cravings.

This will also be discussed with your doctor as the dose of your medication may need to change.

Vaping/E-cigarettes

Provided you are 18 years old or over:

'Vaping' (use of an electronic cigarette/e-cig) is permitted by service users on Trust sites in outdoor areas, including ward gardens/courtyards (if available).

An e-cigarette can be supplied on admission if you wish to use one as an alternative to cigarettes. Some of the cafes and shops on Trust sites sell replacement cartridges.

You may use your own e-cigarette, staff will need to do a brief check of your device and charger to make sure they are safe.

Some services may have restrictions on e-cigarettes for safety reasons.

Information the Trust keeps about you

Why does the Trust keep information about me?

The Trust needs to keep information about you, your health and treatment so that we can provide the best possible care for you.

Is the information kept confidential?

Everyone who works in the Trust and within the wider NHS must keep information about you confidential. We do share information within the team that is caring for you, and sometimes with other professionals in other organisations that are providing care for you, like Social Services.

If we do share information with other organisations, we would normally talk to you about it first and ask for your permission. On very rare occasions we may also share information with other organisations because we feel that there would be a serious risk to you or to other people if we did not do so, or because there is a legal obligation, such as a court order, that means we have to disclose information.

What sort of information do you keep?

We keep information both on paper and on computer. The kinds of details that we keep include:

- Basic information about you, such as your name, date of birth, address, next of kin
- Records of your contacts with professionals, such as clinic visits
- Notes and reports on your health and any treatment or care that you need
- Records of any tests or assessments that we carry out
- Records of the treatment and care that we provide for you
- Relevant information from other health professionals, members of your family or friends who care for you and know you well

Can I see what information you have about me?

You have the right, under the Data Protection Act 2018, to find out what information we hold about you, whether that is on computer or on paper records. If you want to do this, you should write to:

Disclosure Team
Medical Records Department
St Nicholas Hospital
Jubilee Road
Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 3XT

The Trust produces a booklet 'Information that the Trust keeps about you'. Copies are available from staff or the Patient Information Centre Tel: 0191 246 7288.

How will my safety and security be maintained?

Fire safety

Fire alarms are fitted around the hospital. These are very sensitive and can only be turned off by the fire brigade.

If you hear the fire alarm going off, staff will direct you to the safest exit. It is important that you follow their instructions and try to stay calm.

Infection control

Please speak to a member of staff or the infection control nurse if you have any concerns about the cleanliness of the hospital.

Safety and restraint

The most effective care is provided in a safe environment. If a person acts in a way that compromises safety on the ward, staff will take action to reduce the risk to all concerned.

In most situations staff will try to resolve such issues through discussion. They will work with the individual to deal with any problems and may suggest moving to a quieter area.

There may be occasions when a more urgent response is needed, which can involve staff using physical restraint skills. However, these techniques are only used when there is an immediate danger of violence towards yourself or others.

Physical restraint is only ever carried out by staff who have received training in how to use these skills safely. It is intended to allow for safe management of harmful situations and to make the environment safe as quickly as possible. Dignity should be maintained throughout any restraint procedure.

If you see anything that you think could pose a risk to yourself or others, you should report this to a member of staff immediately. Staff can help to reduce the risk and discuss any concerns you might have.

Narcotics Search Dog

The Trust has a narcotics search dog and handler who make both planned and unannounced visits to wards and departments. The search dog is trained to locate illegal substances such as cannabis, cocaine, amphetamine, ecstasy and heroin.

Who can provide me with advice?

Independent advocacy

As a mental health service user you are entitled to independent advocacy. Advocates can provide unbiased advice, attend ward meetings with you and make sure that your views are listened to. Please ask a member of staff for details of the advocacy services available.

Care Quality Commission (CQC)

The CQC is the independent regulator of all health and social care services in England. It checks all hospitals in England to ensure they are meeting government standards of quality and safety. www.cqc.org.uk/public

What if I have a comment, suggestion, compliment or complaint about the service?

If you want to make a comment, suggestion, compliment or complaint you can:

- talk to the people directly involved in your care
- ask a member of staff for a feedback form, or complete a form on the Trust website www.cntw.nhs.uk/contact/complaints/
- telephone the Complaints Department on 0191 245 6672
- email complaints@cntw.nhs.uk Please note that information sent to the Trust via email is sent at your own risk

We are always looking at ways to improve services. Your feedback allows us to monitor the quality of our services and act upon issues that you bring to our attention.

You can provide feedback in the following ways:

- the quickest way for you to do this is to complete our short online survey at www.cntw.nhs.uk/yourvoice
- complete a Your Voice survey, available on wards, reception areas or from staff
- other options for sharing your feedback and experience www.cntw.nhs.uk/yourfeedback

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS provide confidential advice and support, helping you to sort out any concerns that you may have about any aspect of your or your loved ones care.

We act independently when handling patient and family concerns, liaising with staff, managers and, where appropriate, relevant organisations, to negotiate prompt solutions. If necessary, we can also refer patients and families to specific local or national-based support agencies.

North of Tyne

Tel: 0800 032 0202

Email: pals@nhct.nhs.uk

Post: FREEPOST PALS

9am – 4.30 pm, Monday to Friday

An answerphone is available at all times for you to leave a message. A member of the PALS team will aim to return your call as soon as possible.

Discharge

How will my discharge be planned?

Leaving hospital can be an important life event so it is essential that you receive good quality discharge care. Plans around your discharge should commence soon after admission and be part of all care planning processes. Carers will be involved in the planning of any discharge.

The following suggestions are things you might need to consider before leaving the ward:

- Do you have accommodation?
- Is your housing secure and fit to live in?
- Do you have your keys?
- Is your gas and electricity connected?
- Are your finances sorted out?

Staff on the ward will be able to assist you with concerns you might have about these or any other issues and provide you with contact details of the crisis team.

What is Care Programme Approach?

Care Programme Approach (CPA) is a way of planning and co-ordinating your care after you leave hospital. It helps make sure that you are supported in a way that fits your individual health and care needs. CPA includes:

- Assessing your needs with you
- Developing a plan in response to the needs identified and agreed
- Sharing responsibility with you (and others as needed) to put the plan into action
- Reviewing the plan with you to check that it is meeting your needs and to agree any changes

What is meant by Care Co-ordination?

Care Co-ordination describes the process of how mental health services assess your needs, plan ways to meet them and check that they are being met. You should always feel able to ask mental health workers to explain this process clearly to you.

Who will be my Care Co-ordinator?

Your care co-ordinator will usually be a nurse, social worker or occupational therapist. Ideally they should be the person who knows you best and with whom you feel most comfortable to talk with. You should always be informed of the name and contact details of your care co-ordinator.

What does a Care Plan look like?

A care plan is usually a detailed form which states your needs, the range of services required and who will provide these services. It might include things like your medication, your support at home and finance or other personal needs. The process of CPA is also about recognising what you are able to do and what you want to do (your strengths). A copy of the care plan will be given to you to keep.

What does a CPA review look like?

A CPA review is not all about complicated forms and meetings; it is about discussing and writing down your needs and checking they are being met. Reviews should recognise any progress that has been made and involve discussion of all elements of your care plan.

How do I call a review?

You (or your carer) and anyone providing services can call a review. If you feel that a review is needed, you should contact your care co-ordinator who will assist you with making the arrangements. A review should be flexible about where and when it happens and who attends – you might like to invite a family member or friend who supports you.

The Trust produces a booklet 'Care Co-ordination including Care Programme Approach (CPA) - A guide for people with mental health problems and their carers'. Copies are available from staff or the Patient Information Centre Tel: 0191 246 7288.

Where can I get help and advice outside of the hospital?

- **Mind Infoline**

Tel: 0300 123 3393 (9am-6pm, Monday to Friday)

www.mind.org.uk

15-19 Broadway, Stratford, London, E15 4BQ

Provides information on a range of topics including types of mental distress, where to get help, drug and alternative treatments and advocacy. Also provides details of help and support for people in their own area.

- **Rethink**

Advice service: 0808 801 0525 (9.30am -4pm, Mon-Fri excluding bank holidays)

www.rethink.org

89 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7TP

Provides information and a helpline for anyone affected by mental health problems.

- **Samaritans**

Tel: 116 123 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

www.samaritans.org

PO Box 9090, Stirling, FK8 2SA

Provides confidential support for anyone in a crisis.

- **SANELine**

Tel: 0300 304 7000

www.sane.org.uk

1st Floor, Cityside House, 40 Adler Street, London, E1 1EE

Offers practical information, crisis care and emotional support. Helpline available 4.30pm-10.30pm

Health Information

- **Patient Information Centre – Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust**

Provides a range of health information covering conditions, treatments, medication and health promotion. Information is available in alternative formats and languages.

www.cntw.nhs.uk or Tel: 0191 246 7288.

- **The NHS website**

www.nhs.uk

Information about conditions, treatments, local services and healthy lives.

How can I get involved?

As a member of our NHS Foundation Trust you can be as active a member as you would like, from just receiving regular information about the Trust to getting involved in issues that you care about. The choice is yours! To become a member, all you need to do is complete a membership application form or join on-line at www.cntw.nhs.uk and click on 'About us' and choose 'Membership'. Membership is free and members can also benefit from discounts for many shops and services. If you are 16 years old and over and interested in learning more about becoming a Governor for the Children and Young People's Service, please contact the Membership Office on 0191 245 6827 or email members@cntw.nhs.uk More information can then be provided about the criteria.

My useful numbers

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

Diary

You can use the following table to keep a record of your appointments and activities. Further sheets are available from ward staff and can be kept at the back of your information folder.

Regional Affective Disorders Service Welcome Pack

Tell us what you think

We would like to know what you think about the Welcome Pack, your views will help us to improve the pack.

We would be very grateful if you would take a couple of minutes to answer the following questions - thank you.

1.	What do you like about the Welcome Pack?	Comments
2.	Is there anything that you do not like about the Welcome Pack?	Comments
3.	Is there any other information that you would like included in the Welcome Pack?	Comments
4.	Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Welcome Pack?	Comments

Please return to: Patient Information Centre, St Nicholas Hospital or give to a member of staff



Further information about the content, reference sources or production of this leaflet can be obtained from the Patient Information Centre. If you would like to tell us what you think about this leaflet please get in touch.

This information can be made available in a range of formats on request (Braille, audio, larger print, easy read, BSL or other languages). Please contact the Patient Information Centre on 0191 246 7288.

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