

Patient information factsheet

Clinical accreditation scheme (CAS) 2014

What is the clinical accreditation scheme?

CAS is a scheme whereby each clinical area across the hospital undergoes a review in order to achieve a rating or accreditation. The concept is similar to that demonstrated by 'kite marks' or OFSTED ratings that exist outside of hospital.

A working group of staff and patient representatives have decided that each clinical area should be assessed under four headings:

- safety
- patient experience
- clinical environment
- staff and team experience.

These four areas are consistent with national standards followed by all hospitals across the country.

The CAS process involves a visit to each clinical area by senior members of staff from the hospital, in addition to patient representatives. Each clinical area in our hospital will go through this process and will be reviewed on a two-year basis or sooner if required.

Every clinical area needs to provide evidence to show that they are meeting the standards of University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust, which are then reviewed at a panel meeting. At this point a decision is made about accreditation. You may see the certificates displayed.

What does this mean for me?

We are committed to giving you and your family high quality and safe care. Patient and staff workshops have told us that an 'accreditation' decision would be useful for anyone entering the area. You will then be able to tell that the clinical area is meeting all the required standards.

What if an area does not have a certificate?

If you cannot see a certificate on display, it means that the clinical area are either working towards accreditation or they are waiting for their certificate to be presented.

Please feel free to ask the nurse in charge for more information.

How do I get involved?

Our review panels currently comprise staff members from within the hospital and patient representatives. Our patient representatives contribute to the whole review process and are considered as valued members of the team. If you feel you could contribute to this process and would like some more information please feel free to contact either:

- clinicalaccreditationscheme@uhs.nhs.uk
- the CAS team on 023 8120 6179
- the ward leader in your area, who will be able to make an appointment for you with the CAS team.

If you need a translation of this document, an interpreter or a version in large print, Braille or on audio tape, please telephone 023 8120 4688 for help.