

Patient information factsheet

Restricted visiting on TYA cancer unit (C6T) during coronavirus (COVID-19)

During the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak we are taking all necessary precautions in our hospitals to protect patients and staff. This factsheet explains some of the changes currently in place on the teenage and young adult (TYA) cancer unit (C6T), to help you know what to expect. We thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the ward on: 023 8120 6321.

Restrictions on visiting

Access to the hospital is currently restricted, although exceptions may occasionally be made for compassionate reasons based on individual circumstances.

Whilst all patients having chemotherapy for cancer are considered 'highly vulnerable' to COVID-19, some of our patients are at particular risk. For this reason we are limiting the number of people, including staff, who come and go from the TYA unit. We also have a strict 'no visiting' policy.

However, we do recognise that being alone in hospital can be particularly difficult for some young people, especially when facing the challenges of cancer treatment. We have therefore put some careful arrangements in place so that, if necessary, one parent or carer may stay with a young person on C6T (as long as both the patient and their parent/carers have been tested for COVID-19 and the results are negative).

It's important to understand that this will be strictly controlled and may not be something we're able to offer to all young people, and it will need to be agreed by each patient's consultant on a case-by-case basis.

Guidelines for resident parents and carers

If you are permitted to accompany a young person onto the unit, as a resident parent or carer you will be asked to adhere to the rules below to ensure the safety of all our patients:

- You **must not** come to the hospital if you have:
 - any symptoms of COVID-19 (such as fever, cough, or loss smell or taste, however mild). Please do however let your TYA CNS know.
 - been in contact with anyone with a known case of COVID-19, or symptoms of COVID-19 (see above) in the previous 14 days.
- We'll arrange for you to have a test for COVID-19 (a nose and throat swab) 48 hours before admission, and then weekly while you are supporting a young person in hospital.
- Everyone entering the TYA unit will be instructed on hand hygiene and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) if required.
- You must maintain two metres 'social distance' from staff and anyone else on the unit.

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- You must not go into another patient's room.

All resident parents and carers are expected to:

- remain on the TYA unit for the duration of your stay
- to use the social space, kitchen and family sitting room (one person at a time)
- not to go outside or to shops/cafés in the hospital – this is very important.

We're asking for your help in keeping the ward safe for everyone. We ask that you only arrange to stay on the unit if you feel able to follow this guidance.

Testing

Please note, TYA clinical nurse specialists (CNS) will ask each parent/carer for their consent to look up their COVID-19 test result on the hospital IT system.

Planned admissions

If you are supporting a young person during a planned admission to hospital:

- You will need to self-isolate at home for 14 days before the planned admission date.
- You will need to be tested for COVID-19 at the same time as the patient (48 hours before admission). Testing will be arranged by the TYA clinical nurse specialists and may take place at a hospital or a drive-through testing centre.
- Your test result must be negative in order for you to be able accompany your young person during their stay.

Unplanned admissions

If you are supporting a young person during an unplanned admission:

- You will be asked some questions about your own self-isolation/shielding at home.
- If you have had recent social contact outside of your household (with work colleagues, for example) you will not usually be able to be resident on TYA unit.
- If you are self-isolating and limiting social contact, you can be swabbed in the acute oncology unit at same time as the patient. You and the young person you are supporting will be looked after in a surveillance ward while we wait for your results.
- Once a patient is confirmed to be COVID-19 negative they can transfer to TYA unit. We can do rapid testing for urgent patients but not for parents/carers, so you will need to wait for your results before joining your young person on C6. This currently takes around 24 hours, during which time you will need to self-isolate at home.

Longer admissions (over one week)

If you are coming in to support a young person during a longer admission:

- You will be tested every 7 days to check whether your COVID-19 status is still negative.

Help for resident parents/carers

- Facilities for video calling will be provided to enable patients and their families to remain in contact.
- Resident parents and carers can order food from the hospital's patient menu if they wish. Thank you to Serco for providing this support.
- Your friends and family can use the patient drop-off service to deliver items such as letters, small gifts and essential belongings to the unit. Please call **023 8120 1459** for details.

Our 'Information for your stay in hospital' factsheet (available on www.uhs.nhs.uk) contains more details about additional services during COVID-19.

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Further information

TYA ward (C6T) tel: **023 8120 6321**

TYA clinical nurse specialists (TYA CNS) mobile: **07920 708342**

For a translation of this document, or a version in another format such as easy read, large print, Braille or audio, please telephone **023 8120 4688**.

For help preparing for your visit, arranging an interpreter or accessing the hospital, please visit **www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalneeds**