

## Patient information factsheet

# Welcome to the clinical decisions unit

We have given you this factsheet because you have been admitted to the clinical decisions unit (CDU) within the emergency department (ED).

### What is the clinical decisions unit (CDU)?

The CDU is a short stay unit (open 24 hours a day) within the emergency department. It is for people who need more clinical care, but don't need to be admitted to hospital. For example, you may be cared for in the CDU if you require:

- a period of observation
- an assessment by a specialist team
- test results
- further treatment

The CDU is not an inpatient ward. We aim to complete your care within 12 hours of your arrival. The emergency department team will look after you from when you arrive at the unit until you leave.

### During your stay in the CDU

During your stay, we will provide you with ongoing care, up-to-date information regarding your care pathway and treatment plan, regular food and drinks, and advice about the pharmacy and your health.

Please let us know if you:

- feel unwell
- are in pain
- feel disorientated or frightened
- are not sure what your diagnosis is
- are not sure what your treatment plan is
- have medication with you that you need to take
- are hungry or thirsty
- have any food allergies or specific dietary requirements
- have any questions

### Visitors

Visitors are welcome in the CDU 24 hours a day. However, for the safety and comfort of all, please limit your visitors to two at a time.

### Refreshments

Water and squash are available 24 hours a day.

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## Meal times

Breakfast: 8 to 9am

Lunch: 12 (noon) to 1pm

Dinner: 5 to 6pm

Tea round: 10am, 2pm and 6.30pm

If you require any food or hot drinks outside of these times, please speak to the nurse in the CDU.

## Care pathways

There are three possible care pathways for people in the CDU:

### You may be assessed by a specialty team

Specialty medical teams, such as medical, surgical, orthopaedic (musculoskeletal system specialists), neurology (nervous system specialists) or cardiology (heart specialists) may come to assess you while you are in the CDU. If they think you require further treatment, they may admit you into hospital.

### You may be transferred to another hospital or care facility

Some people may need to be transferred to another hospital or care facility to continue their treatment, such as the Princess Anne Hospital or the Salisbury District Hospital.

Other people may require rehabilitation or respite care (a break from caring) before returning home.

### You may be discharged

If your test results and assessments show that you are able to be discharged home safely, we will arrange this for you.

Please note that if you require NHS transport, you will need to wait for this to arrive in the CDU or in the hospital discharge lounge.

## Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

Clinical decisions unit

Telephone: **023 8021 8288** (CDU1)

Telephone: **023 8021 5427** (CDU2)

## Useful links

[www.uhs.nhs.uk/OurServices/Emergencymedicine/EmergencyDepartment.aspx](http://www.uhs.nhs.uk/OurServices/Emergencymedicine/EmergencyDepartment.aspx)

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](http://www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalneeds)**