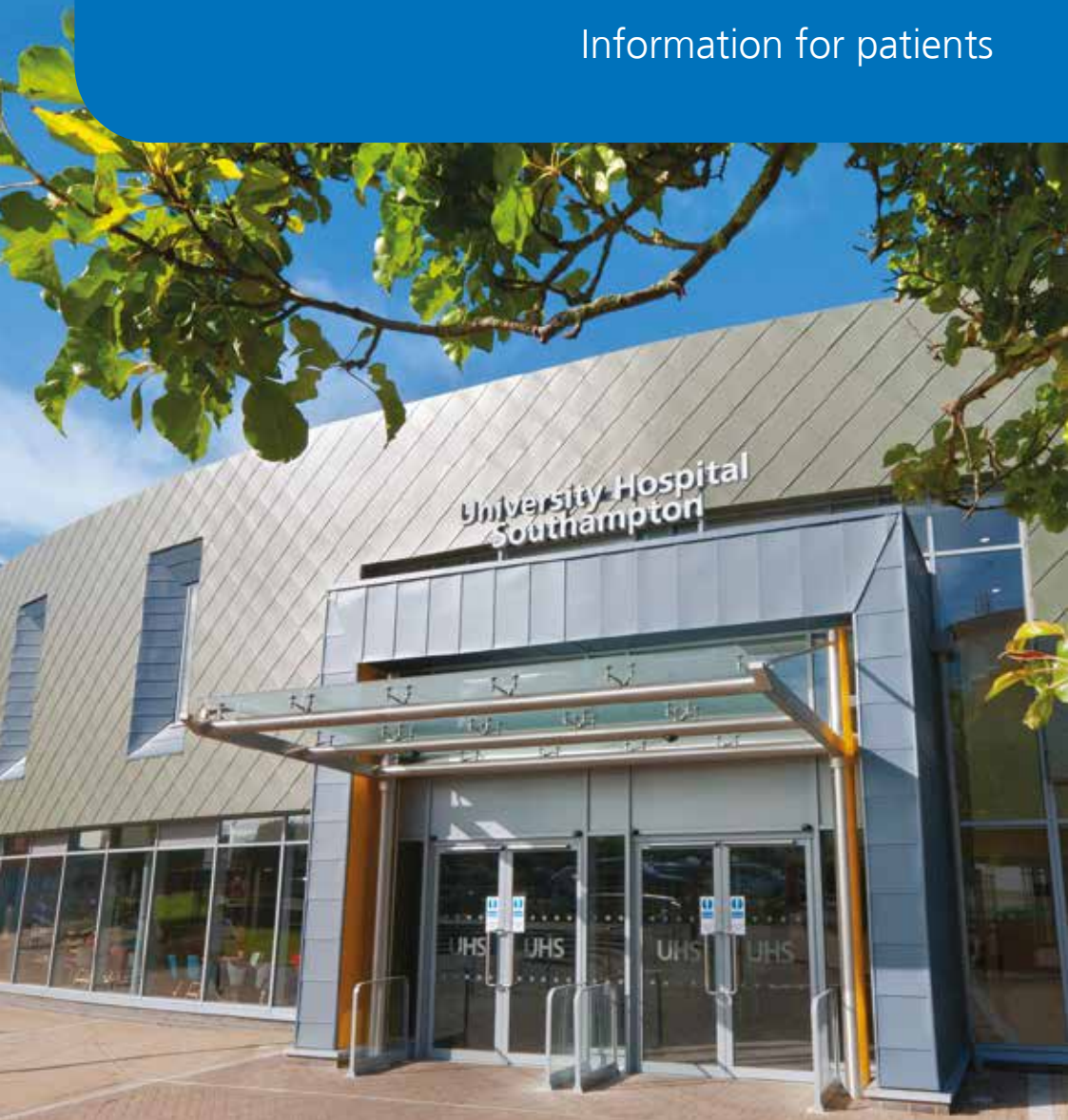




University Hospital  
Southampton  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Catheter lab day unit

Information for patients



**Welcome to the Catheter (Cath) Lab Day Unit. Our department offers expert treatment and investigations for adults with cardiac, vascular and congenital heart conditions, along with care before and after procedures. This leaflet aims to answer any questions you may have about the department and your stay here. If you have any questions or concerns about your appointment, please contact the number on your appointment letter.**

## **What to bring into hospital**

- Your own medications in their original containers including tablets, inhalers, sprays and insulin.
- A dressing gown and slippers.
- A book or newspaper to read.
- Glasses, hearing aids or walking aids, if you use them.

There are small lockers available to store your personal belongings but we're unable to provide bedside lockers, so please keep items to a minimum. The hospital cannot be held responsible for any losses so we recommend you leave all valuable items at home.

## **What to expect during your stay**

How long you stay will depend on the procedure you are having. It's possible you will need to stay for the whole day (up to 10 hours).

You will need someone to collect you following your procedure and stay with you overnight. Please remember to arrange this in advance.

If a family member, friend or carer is bringing you to your appointment, we ask that they drop you off and return to collect you afterwards. They will not usually be permitted to stay with you while you have treatment but we'll let them know when you are likely to be able to go home. If in exceptional circumstances someone needs to stay with you, they may be asked to wait in a different area. Your understanding with this is very much appreciated.

The unit has thirteen recovery bays. These are allocated according to the planned time of each procedure. In some cases, patients arriving after you may be seen by a healthcare professional before you. We try to keep waiting times to a minimum for everyone but if the department is particularly busy you may encounter a delay. Please be aware that whilst we aim to keep the bay area's single sex we do occasionally need to mix.

You are welcome to use mobile devices, but please consider other patients and keep them on silent mode. We are not able to offer bedside TV, radio, or phone facilities.

Before having your procedure you will wait in a clinical area while we complete any preparations, such as any monitoring requirements, blood pressure recording and fluid infusions. Some patients may be able to eat and drink in this area, while others will be 'nil by mouth'. We understand this can be difficult for you if you are nil by mouth, but unfortunately it cannot be avoided.

## **Discharge and going home**

You will be recovering for a short while following your procedure. You may be asked to walk around the unit as part of your recovery.

Before you leave, you will be given a copy of your discharge summary which will explain the tests, procedures and medical care provided during your admission. A copy will be sent to your GP. You will also be given information relating to your procedure and any dressings, medications or other supplies required. Please be aware that it can take time for the pharmacy to provide any new medication you may need. We aim to ensure that the wait is no longer than four hours.

## **Meals**

Sandwiches and hot drinks will be provided when you're able to eat. Please inform our nursing staff if you have any specific dietary requirements. Food can be brought in from home if you prefer and there is a patient fridge available for storage. Please ensure all items are dated and labelled. You will have a jug of water at your bedside.

## **Wash facilities**

Your nurse will show you your nearest toilet and wash facilities.

## **Fire safety**

In the unlikely event of a fire, the alarms will ring continuously until the area has been made safe. An intermittent ring means that there is a fire in an area near you. If the fire alarm rings, follow the advice of hospital staff.

## **Shops, restaurants and facilities**

There are shops, food and drink outlets, a pharmacy and cash machines in the main entrance area. There is a restaurant on B level serving a range of hot and cold meals and snacks to patients, visitors and staff.

## **Transport**

There is a free phone to call a taxi situated by the reception desk at the main entrance. The person on the main reception desk can also help with information on bus times. Hospital transport is only provided in exceptional circumstances. For information about hospital transport, please speak to your GP.

## **Parking**

Please use the main hospital car park but be aware that during peak times parking on site can be limited and there is often a queue. We have blue badge parking spaces around the site. Parking charges can be found on the hospital website. Outside the main entrance is a 20min drop off and collection parking area.

## **Reclaim travel costs**

You may be eligible to be reimbursed for the cost of transport to the hospital if you receive certain benefits, are the holder of an NHS tax credit exemption card or are the holder of an HC2/HC3 form. Take your proof of entitlement card and receipt to the cashier's office by the main entrance of the hospital.

## Smoking

We are proud to be a smoke free hospital and ask that you do not smoke anywhere other than the designated smoking shelters. This includes all forms of e-cigarettes and vaporisers. You can speak to your nurse if you would like a nicotine replacement. For help and support with giving up smoking, please visit [www.nhs.uk/smokefree](http://www.nhs.uk/smokefree).

## Have your say or raise concerns

Our PALS (patient advice and liaison service) team are here for you if you'd like to discuss any aspect of your hospital care. You can call them on **023 8120 6325** Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm or email [pals@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@uhs.nhs.uk)

If you have any concerns about your care or treatment we encourage you to raise any problems with the nurse in charge of the ward, or the matron at the earliest opportunity. Our 'Raising concerns or complaints' booklet explains how to let us know about your experiences in hospital. Ask for a copy or download one from our website. You will also be asked to complete a feedback card to tell us about your experiences.

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Main switchboard: **023 8077 7222**

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For help preparing for your visit, arranging an interpreter or accessing the hospital please visit: **[www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalsupport](http://www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalsupport)**

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