

Patient information factsheet

Welcome to the older person's medical decision unit

Medical decision unit 80+

We have given you this factsheet because you are being cared for on the older person's medical decision unit. It explains what the unit is and introduces the team who will be caring for you. We hope it will answer any questions you may have. If you have any further questions, please speak to a member of the team.

What is the older person's medical decision unit?

The older person's medical decision unit is a dedicated area for patients aged 80 and over. The unit is located within same day emergency care (SDEC) but is a quieter environment, which helps to make your hospital experience calmer and more comfortable.

We provide specialist urgent assessment and treatment for older people with acute medical problems. These include:

- falls
- dizziness
- collapses
- anaemias (iron deficiency)
- mobility problems
- heart failure
- infections
- suspected blood clots

You may have been referred to our service by your GP, ambulance service, community team or the emergency department. Sometimes we may take patients directly from the emergency department into our unit.

We aim to assess you quickly and we will try to get you home the same day. If you need to stay in hospital, we will give you a clear treatment plan as early as possible. This helps to avoid delays and will shorten your stay in hospital.

The team

The team is led by a consultant specialising in older people's medicine. The team is made up of:

- nursing staff
- junior doctors
- specialist registrars
- advanced clinical practitioners

We also work with a physiotherapy and occupational therapy team.

What will happen in the older person's medical decision unit?

Assessment and examination

When you are on the unit, the nursing team will check your:

- blood pressure
- pulse
- temperature

The team may also:

- weigh you
- take blood tests
- do an electrocardiogram (ECG, a heart tracing test)

A doctor or advanced clinical practitioner will then examine you and ask about:

- your medical history
- your current symptoms or problems
- any medication you take

With your permission they may also speak to your next of kin or carers for more information.

Review

The consultant will then review you and will discuss your care and treatment plan with you in detail. Please ask any questions you may have.

Eating and drinking

We will offer you food and drink while you are with us.

Mobility

We will encourage you to sit in a chair and keep mobile if you can. We have a variety of walking aids to assist you, if needed. If we have any concerns about your mobility or how you are managing at home, we may ask our physiotherapy or occupational therapy team to come and assess you on the unit.

Investigations

After your assessment, we may refer you for further investigations. These may include:

- x-rays
- CT scans
- ultrasound scans

These investigations may be carried out the same day. However, we may ask you to come back to the unit another day for investigations and a review, or you may have your investigations as an outpatient.

Referrals

Our service is closely linked with the urgent response service (URS) in Southampton. We also have links to other local community teams, so we may be able to arrange referrals, assessments, and care at home, if needed.

Going home

Before you leave the older person's medical decision unit, a plan of care will be discussed with you.

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If you are going home, we will give you a copy of your discharge summary which explains your treatment and plan of care. A copy will also be sent to your GP.

We will try to keep you updated with your discharge time. We may ask for someone to collect you. Where this is not possible, we may be able to arrange transport home for you.

Privacy and dignity

We treat male and female patients in the same area on the older person's medical decision unit. However, we will ensure that your privacy and dignity is always respected.

Feedback

We welcome and encourage any feedback about your experience.

To comment on your treatment in the older person's medical decision unit, you or a relative/carer can complete a patient survey before you leave hospital. You can also leave feedback by scanning the QR code below with your mobile phone. You will need to choose 'Same day emergency care' from the drop-down options.



Contact us

You can contact the older person's medical decision unit with any general enquiries. The older person's medical decision unit is open from 8am to 8pm, seven days a week.

Telephone: **023 8120 6284**

Same day emergency care (SDEC)
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This information has been developed by University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust and Solent NHS Trust.

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