

Ambulatory Liver Care Unit

Information for patients

This information sheet answers some of the questions you may have about ambulatory liver care. If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to the doctors or nurses caring for you.

Confirming your identity

Before you have a treatment or procedure, our staff will ask you your name and date of birth and check your ID band. If you do not have an ID band we will also ask you to confirm your address. If we do not ask these questions, then please ask us to check. Ensuring your safety is our primary concern.

What is ambulatory liver care?

King's College Hospital's Liver Unit delivers a range of treatments which have usually been provided within an inpatient setting (that is, with you sitting in a hospital bed on a ward). However, evidence and experience has shown that for certain conditions the treatment is just as safe and effective when provided to you as an outpatient.

Suitable patients receive their care in the King's Liver Outpatient Department.

Please note, if you do require hospital admission during your treatment, beds are available 24 hours a day on our associated wards.

What advantages does ambulatory care offer me?

You will receive the same treatment as on the ward, but it is scheduled between the hours of 8am and 4pm. This allows you to continue daily life at home. You will continue to have 24 hour access to medical and nursing care. You will be given information telling you how to contact us throughout your treatment period.

Is ambulatory care right for me?

As you will be required to take a more active role in your care, it is important to find out whether ambulatory care is suitable for you. Your nurse or doctor will discuss this with you and will only refer you to this service if it is suitable.

What to expect in the Ambulatory Liver Care Unit

You will be assessed and treated by an advanced nurse practitioner (ANP) who has a lot of experience working with patients with liver disease who receive ambulatory care treatment:

- you will have your temperature, pulse, blood pressure and weight checked
- blood tests and other necessary investigations will be carried out
- you will receive your prescribed treatment, any additional investigations and resulting treatment – treatments may run later than expected, so please allow some flexibility
- the details of the condition you are being treated for and what happens next will be given to you in writing along with contact numbers and details of any appointments
- if you require hospital admission this will be arranged for you by the ANP who will accompany you to the ward

Consent

We must by law obtain your written consent to any procedures beforehand. Staff will explain all the risks, benefits and alternatives before they ask you to sign a consent form. If you are unsure about any aspect of the treatment proposed, please do not hesitate to ask to speak with a senior member of staff.

Contact details

If you feel unwell before your appointment, please call us on the numbers below.

Liver Outpatients Department, Suite 9, Third Floor, Golden Jubilee Wing, King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London, SE5 9RS

Tel: 020 3299 7248 and 020 3299 6677

E-mail: kch-tr.daycase.liver@nhs.net

The unit is open 5 days a week: Monday to Friday from 8am to 4pm. Outside of these hours you can access medical support through contacts in the Emergency Department and the usual ways to access medical advice (that is, NHS 111 and your GP).

Sharing your information

We have teamed up with Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals in a partnership known as King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. We are working together to give our patients the best possible care, so you might find we invite you for appointments at Guy's or St Thomas'. To make sure everyone you meet always has the most up-to-date information about your health, we may share information about you between the hospitals.

Care provided by students

We provide clinical training where our students get practical experience by treating patients. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you do not want students to be involved in your care. Your treatment will not be affected by your decision.

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you. They can also pass on praise or thanks to our teams.

PALS at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS

Tel: 020 3299 3601

Email: kch-tr.palsdh@nhs.net

If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact Interpreting Services on 020 3299 4826 or email kch-tr.interpreting@nhs.net.