Medical High Dependency Unit (MHDU)
A Guide for Patients and Carers

We can provide interpreters for a variety of languages, information in larger print or other formats (e.g. audio) - please call us on 01932 723553.
To use the Text Relay service, prefix all numbers with 18802.

Patient Information

Ashford Hospital
London Road
Ashford, Middlesex
TW15 3AA
Tel: 01784 884488
Website: www.ashfordstpeters.nhs.uk

St. Peter’s Hospital
Guildford Road
Chertsey, Surrey
KT16 0PZ.
Tel: 01932 872000

Patients first • Personal responsibility • Passion for excellence • Pride in our team
Further Information

We endeavour to provide an excellent service at all times, but should you have any concerns please, in the first instance, raise these with the Matron, Senior Nurse or Manager on duty. If they cannot resolve your concern, please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01932 723553 or email pals@asph.nhs.uk. If you still remain concerned please contact our Complaints Manager on 01932 722612 or email complaints@asph.nhs.uk
Infection Control
We try to reduce the risk of infections being spread. All staff should use alcohol gel to clean their hands between treating each patient.

Sometimes this may take place outside the bay, but if in doubt please challenge whoever is attending you and ask if they have cleaned their hands first.

We also ask visitors to use the gel provided at the entrance to the ward before entering and leaving.

and Finally....... 
Visiting the unit can be tiring. It is understandable to be worried about your loved one, but it is also important to take care of yourself. Try to rest as often as you can and remember to eat sensibly too. You will need to keep up your strength.

If you have any other worries, questions or concerns that we can help you with, please do not hesitate to ask any member of the staff.

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Introduction
Welcome to the Medical High Dependency Unit (MHDU) which is located at Level 4 in the Duchess of Kent Building at St. Peter’s Hospital.

This leaflet aims to provide simple and practical information to people whose loved one is admitted to our unit.

The Unit
Patients who are acutely unwell need constant monitoring and observation, often needing equipment and medicine in support all of which is provided in our unit. However, if the patient continues to deteriorate and/or needs a higher level of care, he/she may be transferred to the Intensive Care Unit (ITU).

Medical care within MHDU is managed primarily by the Respiratory Consultants:

- Professor Mark Britton
- Dr Paul Murray
- Dr Mike Wood

and their teams but patients may also be cared for by other Consultants if they require treatment from another speciality.
Contact Numbers

Direct line telephone numbers for MHDU are 01932 723 698/9

The Unit at Night

Unfortunately, because of the care some patients require, the wards can be quite noisy at night. We will try to keep noise to a minimum, but sleep can at times be disturbed.

Visiting the Unit

Please note that only two visitors are allowed for each patient at any one time.

Visiting times are generally 15.00 to 16.30 and 18.00 to 20.00 hours daily. We do, of course, make exceptions for newly admitted or seriously ill patients.

Please do speak to any member of staff before entering the unit. You may have to wait a while. You will be asked to wear an apron and to wash your hands with "alco-gel" provided at the entrance door.

Children under the age of 12 are generally not allowed onto the unit, however allowances can be made. Children must not visit patients unaccompanied.

Please respect the patient’s right to privacy. Visitors are usually asked to wait outside the unit whilst nursing care, physiotherapy or medical examinations take place. We apologise if you are kept waiting for long periods of time.

Personal Items

Please take all valuables and clothing home as we have very limited space around each bed.

Basic personal toiletries and shaving equipment are all that are required during a patient’s stay with us.

Due to the number of pieces of equipment used to monitor your relative and the position of drip lines clothing may interfere with the monitor and may prove difficult for us to put on. Therefore, it may be preferable for the patient to wear a hospital gown.

Flowers are not permitted as they are a potential source of infection. Also, large containers of water are not advisable next to very expensive electrical equipment.

Telephoning the Unit

Relatives and friends may want to check on a patient’s progress. We are unable to discuss this over the telephone other than to the recognised next of kin. It would be helpful if one person only telephones the unit for a daily update and informs others concerned. To this end please advise the nursing staff of the name of this person.

This will assist staff by saving them time, which could otherwise be devoted to patient care. If there are changes to a patient’s condition, the next of kin will automatically be advised, unless otherwise requested.