

Nephrology department

# Renal planned investigation unit (PIU), Pam Sassoa

## Information for patient's relatives and carers

### Introduction

This information leaflet is designed to give you information about the Planned investigation unit. We hope it will answer some of the questions that you or those who care for you may have at this time. If you have any other queries or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

The Planned investigation unit is a day case renal investigation and day surgery unit. It is situated on the third floor of C block in the main building at Hammersmith Hospital.

It is accessible by lift and stairs in C and D block. The unit is open Monday - Friday 07.30 – 20.00 and is managed by a team of experienced nurses.

We care for patients having a number of investigations, including, but not all:

- renal biopsy
- renal angiogram
- antibiotic infusions
- intravenous iron infusions
- monoclonal antibody (Rituximab) infusions

We also care for patients having:

- peritoneal and haemodialysis access
- hernia repair
- pre-operative nephrectomy
- donor nephrectomy.

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## Who are the members of the team?

Each member of staff wears a badge with their name and job title so that they can be easily identified.

Depending on what procedure you have been referred for, you may be visited by members of the multidisciplinary team, you may hear staff refer to the team as MDT, and they include surgeons, anaesthetists, nephrologists (specialist kidney doctors) and dieticians.

## How can I prepare for my operation?

- Please contact the Planned investigation unit to confirm the date and time you are expected to arrive for your appointment.
- Depending upon the procedure, you will be given specific instructions to follow, such as stopping medications, arriving at the unit with an empty stomach. If you are unable to attend your appointment, please contact the renal admissions team, or the Planned investigations unit during working hours. You can find the contact number on page three of this leaflet.

## What happens when I arrive at the unit?

A member of staff will greet you, confirm your details and show you to your bed. You will be introduced to a nurse who will familiarise you with the unit. You will be cared for in a bay with other patients of the same sex as you.

## What will happen on the day of my procedure?

- A nurse will take some blood samples if required for your procedure. You may have to wait for your blood results before you can have your procedure - so please be prepared to wait up to two hours.
- You will be seen by a member of the team looking after you. They will explain your procedure and ask you to sign a consent form before hospital staff starts your treatment.
- If you are having a general anaesthetic (also known as GA) the anaesthetist will also visit you to discuss the anaesthetic that you require and answer any questions that you may have.
- However the majority of interventional procedures are done under local anaesthesia. Unfortunately sometimes procedures are cancelled on the day this can be due to higher priority cases such as kidney transplants and urgent in-patient cases.

We are always sorry to inconvenience our patients, and we try hard not to cancel treatments that are booked in, please understand that the needs of our very sick patients do have to come first.

## What happens after my procedure?

If you have had a general anaesthetic you will be taken to the recovery unit to be cared for by our experienced nursing staff. When they are satisfied you are making good recovery progress, you may be transferred to the Planned investigation unit (PIU), which is in the renal building in C Block.

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If you have had a local anaesthetic you will be taken directly to the Planned investigation unit. Please be prepared to spend at least three to four hours with us.

If you are new to haemodialysis a dialysis appointment will be allocated to you before discharge. Follow up appointments for renal and surgical clinics will also be given before you go home.

## Going home

The nurse looking after you will give you advice on how to care for yourself after your procedure.

You will need to organise your transport home.

If you do not have a friend or relative to bring you home you may be entitled to hospital transport.

Hospital transport is provided for medical reasons. To qualify for transport you must be assessed by the transport team. Please call the Freephone number **0800 458 3004** to speak to a member of the transport booking team. Transport must be booked at least 48 hours prior to your admission.

## Facilities

Hot drinks are available for all patients and relatives while on the unit.

Please note that we do not provide hot meals. However, we do have a selection of sandwiches that we offer to our patients.

And you are very welcome to bring your own food and drinks, but we cannot heat any food on the unit.

Other facilities include: a Costa coffee outlet in the main entrance at the hospital, as well as a Subway restaurant and a shop.

You are welcome to bring your mobile devices and tablets.

A free wi-fi service is available throughout the hospital, you can find more details about this on page four of this leaflet.

Please be mindful of patients in various stages of recovery and keep mobile phone ring tones on silent/vibrate and do not have telephone conversations on loud speaker.

Personal valuables are brought to the hospital at your own risk. The Trust will not accept responsibility for any items lost or stolen on its premises.

## Useful contact numbers for you

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us on the telephone numbers below:

09.30 to 15.00, admissions office, call: 020 3313 6632 or 020 3313 6617

07.30 to 19.00, Planned investigations unit call: 020 3313 6635 or 020 3313 6682

Transport office call: 0800 458 3004

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## How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3313 0088** (Charing Cross, Hammersmith and Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea hospitals), or **020 3312 7777** (St Mary's and Western Eye hospitals). You can also email PALS at [pals@imperial.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@imperial.nhs.uk). The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to express your concerns in **writing** to:

Complaints department  
Fourth floor  
Salton House  
St Mary's Hospital  
Praed Street  
London W2 1NY

## Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print, as a sound recording, in Braille, or in alternative languages. Please contact the communications team on **020 3312 5592**.

## Wi-fi

We have a free wi-fi service for basic filtered browsing and a premium wi-fi service (requiring payment) at each of our five hospitals. Look for WiFiSPARK\_FREE or WiFiSPARK\_PREMIUM