

Surgical Emergency Unit (SEU), John Radcliffe

Information about the placement

The Surgical Emergency Unit is one of the largest wards at the John Radcliffe Hospital. It is a specialist unit for the care of acute surgical patients. Patients who need emergency surgery are referred directly to the unit by their GP or other medical setting. The area accepts all general surgical patients referred to the hospital by their GP and care for a wide range of adult patients of all ages with conditions such as appendicitis, cholecystitis / biliary colic, diverticulitis, pancreatitis, bowel obstruction, colorectal cancer, rectal bleeding and much more. Many of our patients have complex needs with many co-morbidities.

SEU is on Level 6 of the main building and comprises Triage and Wards 6D, 6E, and 6F. Placements are only available on the ward areas.

Triage

Triage is the 'front door' to SEU for most of our patients. It is an area where patients are initially assessed by healthcare professionals including Surgical Emergency Nurse Practitioners who perform most of the patient clerking, Staff Nurses, Assistant Practitioners, Foundation Year 1 doctors and Senior Medical Staff. Triage comprises a waiting area, 8 trolleys and an ambulatory area Level 4 for patients who were previously allowed home to be reviewed.

Wards

- 6D has 12 beds
- 6E has 18 beds
- 6F has 20 beds

All ward areas care for acutely unwell surgical admissions both pre- and post-operatively and pre- and post and post-ITU and those awaiting social care.

Each assessment and ward area has its own medication room, resus trolley and equipment room. There is also a quiet room on 6F.

Each area has its own handover prior to the start of each shift and there are huddles at 11:00 to discuss patients' updates such as those who are triggering and have been escalated. The ward rounds occur between 09:00 and 10:00 and the co-ordinator accompanies the ward round to discuss nursing and patient concerns.

Contact details

Best time to contact: Monday to Friday 09:00 - 17:00

Practice Development Nurse: Sarah Sundberg

Triage

Ward Manager: Emma Berry

Clinical Educator: Sophie Bird

Tel: 01865 222780

Best time to contact: Monday to Friday 09:00 - 17:00

6D

Ward Manager: Natasha Walker

Clinical Educator: Sophie Bird

Tel: 01865 857952

Best time to contact: Monday to Friday 09:00 - 17:00

6E

Ward Manager: Laura Gosson

Clinical Educator: Le Franz Catolico

Tel: 01865 228691

Best time to contact: Monday to Friday 09:00 - 17:00

6F

Ward Manager: Jane Bolley

Clinical Educator: Jincy Mathew

Tel: 01865 221843

Location

Level 6, John Radcliffe Hospital

Key learning opportunities

- Patient Assessment (A - E)
- Pre- and post-op cares
- Care of the deteriorating patient
- Post ITU care

- Care of the complex patient with multiple co-morbidities
- Care of abdominal drains
- Care of Central Venous Access Devices
- Complex pain management
- Enteral and parenteral feeding
- Stoma care
- Tissue viability and wound cares
- Complex discharges and referral to District Nurses

Suggested spoke placements

- Theatre
- Recovery units
- Stoma therapists
- Pain team
- Tissue Viability Nurses team
- Palliative Care (3rd year only)

Typical shift patterns

- Early shift: 07:00 - 14:00
- Long day: 07:00 - 20:00
- Night shift: 19:30 - 07:00

Our staff mostly do Long Days but can be negotiable to do Early shifts for valid reasons such as childcare or other work commitments and these are to be liaised with the ward manager. We actively discourage working more than 2 days in a row.

Interdisciplinary learning

- Nursing – Oxford Brookes University and Open University
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Nursing Apprenticeships
- Stoma Therapy

Useful reading for the placement

- Royal Marsden Manual of Clinical Nursing Procedures
- SEU booklets on: Emergency General Surgery; Upper GI Surgery; Lower GI Surgery; Hepatobiliary Surgery