

How long will I be staying?

This varies enormously. For many who are fit and mobile and having straightforward surgery then 1 to 2 weeks would be typical. For complex problems and operations this is extended to suit your condition.

What about visitors?

We have a relatives room that can be used at the ward manager's discretion. This room is available for overnight stays for a family member if you are unwell and they live outside Oxford.

The visiting times are usually 10am to 2pm and 4pm to 8pm. Please discuss with the senior nurse if you wish to visit at other times as we need to be sensitive to the needs of all patients and also the work pattern of our staff.

Smoking policy

Please remember that this is a hospital and smoking is not permitted by staff or patients in the ward or in our roof garden. If you need help to stop smoking then please discuss with your GP prior to admission.

I do/do not want to leave!

Most patients want to go home as soon as they are able with our advice and support. Sometimes this is difficult due to the treatment, home circumstances or other support services you may require. We try to be as flexible as we can about arranging a safe and suitable discharge for you.

Some patients are keen to remain on the BIU for all treatment and recovery. Whilst we are pleased you may express confidence in us in this way we unfortunately cannot always accommodate this due to the admission pressure on the Unit. We will be understanding but may need to make arrangements to return you to your home, community hospital or referring hospital for recovery or whilst awaiting a second operation.

Contact Details

**Bone Infection Unit Office
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre
Windmill Road
Headington
Oxford OX3 7LD**

Phone: 01865 738029

Fax: 01865 738027

www.noc.nhs.uk



**Bone Infection Unit, Education & Research Fund:
Informing Patients**

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What is the
Bone Infection Unit?

Introduction

The Bone Infection Unit (BIU) is a specialist unit at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre for the treatment of bone, joint and spinal infections. This includes infected artificial joints and infected metalwork such as pins and plates.

Tell me more!

The Unit is staffed by specialist nurses, doctors, surgeons, plastic surgeons, physiotherapist, occupational therapists, dieticians and pharmacists. We work together to look after you and to make a diagnosis and plan treatments. We have combined meetings and clinics weekly to help coordinate care and planning. You will also have the support of a multifaith chaplain and a patient advice and liaison service.

Who is in charge of my care?

Most patients are planned admissions and are under the care of a Physician and a Surgeon jointly. If you are admitted as an emergency then you would initially be under the care of the surgical team on call for emergencies.

What does the surgeon do?

The surgeon will decide and perform operations and make any decisions about mobilising, weight bearing and stitch removal. The surgical team is most involved in your care at the time of your operation.

What does the physician do?

The physician is a specialist in infection who chooses the antibiotics and will set up prolonged antibiotic therapy if needed. The physician also looks after problems such as asthma or high blood pressure.

What do the specialist nurses do?

They will administer your medicines, look after your wound or ulcer, assist with pain control, assist with artificial metal frames and set up intravenous antibiotic treatment at home if required.

Why do you use plastic surgeons?

Some patients have operations which require that the skin or muscle over a bone is stretched or repositioned. This is done by a plastic surgeon.

What do the Physiotherapist and Occupational Therapist do?

These teams are essential to mobilising you and advising on equipment such as crutches. Together with the specialist intravenous nurses they are crucial to coordinating your discharge plan.

How often will I be assessed?

Your nurse will look after you on a daily basis. The surgeons and physicians will see you most days at the beginning of your treatment plan but then less as you make progress.

Tell me about my room!

We have 26 beds, some in bays and some as single rooms. Some people prefer a single room but they are usually used for specific medical reasons. All rooms have television, telephones and ensuite bathrooms. Complimentary meals and radio are provided. We aim not to disturb your meals and most patients are welcome to bring in their own food if they wish.