

Student Placement information

Churchill Theatres

The Churchill Theatres department has 10 theatres covering 13 different surgical specialties. We also have a large Post Anaesthetic Care Unit (PACU) and an overnight HDU recovery. We have 13 different specialties in Churchill Theatres so the patient groups and operations completed are varied.

Our aim is to treat all our patients as individuals to ensure their care is specific to their needs. As key members of the multidisciplinary team, perioperative practitioners provide competent and effective patient-focused quality care, whilst acting as the patients advocate, managing and protecting their experience, supporting their views and beliefs.

We promote and maintain a safe environment through effective risk management; whilst maintaining our own professional development and skills through education and training.

Our practice is evidence-based and evaluated while being reflected upon in practice. We strive to sustain an awareness of ethical and legal issues while maintaining a high standard of care in line with local and trust policies, ensuring high quality care for all.

We aim to ensure a safe and clean environment through regular auditing and monitoring, sharing of results and improving targets.

The specialties we cover are:

- Urology – including the use of robotic surgery
- Gynaecology-oncology
- Lower Gastrointestinal/Colorectal (LGI)
- Upper Gastrointestinal (UGI)
- Hepatobiliary (HPB)
- Endocrine Surgery
- Breast Surgery
- Maxillofacial
- Ear Nose and Throat
- Plastics
- Vascular Access
- Living Related Donor Transplant
- Transplant

We carry out the following transplant procedures here –

- Kidney Transplant
- Pancreas Transplant

- Simultaneous Kidney Pancreas Procedures
- Small Bowel Transplant with or without an abdominal wall transplant

Please make contact with the placement as soon as possible.

Kim Lovegrove, Lead Practice Educator for SuWOn Theatres: kim.lovegrove@ouh.nhs.uk

Please email Kim no later than two weeks before the start of your placement. It is highly recommended that you arrange a pre-placement visit.

Key members of staff:

- Matron – Theresa Lowry
- Deputy Matron – Nadine Purdy
- Ward Sister – Caroline Baker & Jo Nawrocka Scrub Sisters Josefina Marticio – A&R Sister
- Clinical Facilitators – Lauren Wallis & Tim Digman (A&R) Carouselle Garcia & Pablo Blanco (Scrub)

Information about the placement

The staff working in theatres are Registered Nurses or Operating Department Practitioners (ODP) and work either as Scrub Practitioners or Anaesthetic and Recovery Practitioners.

During your placement you will get the opportunity to work across all four areas rotating between the specialties. It is a very different experience to working on the ward with a large team to support, guide and teach you.

Within the Theatre team you will work alongside Surgeons and Anaesthetists of all levels, RGN, Theatre Support Workers, Radiology staff, Cell Savage team, student ODP, student Paramedics, Operating Department Orderlies. There are a lot of learning opportunities.

You will also have the opportunity to spend some time in Day Surgery which is where most of our patients begin their perioperative journey. This will give you the opportunity to see the processes behind getting patients ready for surgery.

Key learning opportunities during the placement

The learning opportunities are very varied and dependent on which area you are placed in.

For example:

Anaesthetics will teach you how to perform airway maintenance maneuvers, understand the pharmacology behind anaesthesia, increase your knowledge of invasive lines and monitors.

Recovery and CORU – complete A-E assessments, assess patients' pain requirements, epidural care, ABG analysis, fluid management plus more dependent on the type of surgery.

Scrub will increase your knowledge of anatomy and physiology alongside developing your aseptic technique skills into a full surgical scrub.

Suggested spoke placements

- Day Surgery
- Pre-assessment

Typical shift patterns

24 hour service and weekend shifts are rare.

Interdisciplinary learning and local education programmes

- Perioperative New Starters Induction Day – runs every month and focuses on the basics of Theatres
- S&O Student Academy – delivered online
- Back to Basics – Anaesthetic and Scrub sessions run by Education team on a variety of topics relevant to Theatres. Runs weekly, schedule will be available when placement starts
- Monday morning CORU sessions delivered by Surgeons and Anaesthetists

Useful reading for that area

- Care of the Patient in Surgery – Jane C Rothrick
- Introduction to Anaesthesia – P Greig and N Crabtree
- AfPP in your pocket – Second Edition the Association for Perioperative Practice

Refresh knowledge on A&P for Respiratory and Cardiac systems.