

Student Placement information

Sobell House Hospice, Churchill Hospital

Welcome to the area

Sir Michael Sobell House Hospice opened in 1976 and is named after its benefactor who was a businessman and a philanthropist.

It was one of the first NHS hospices built and was funded by a personal donation from Sir Michael Sobell, a contribution from the Department of Health and a public appeal following a campaign spearheaded by a local doctor, Dr Alastair Laing.

Dr Robert Twycross, one of the first consultants here, worked with Dame Cecily Saunders at St Christopher's, the first modern hospice.

Part funded by the Sobell House Hospice Charity, the hospice consists of an **Inpatient Unit, Day Centre, Outpatient Clinic** rooms and the **Study Centre**.

It is also home to both the **Community** and **Hospital Palliative Care Specialist Nurses**. During your time with us we will try and get you involved with as many of these different services as we can as it's great to see how all the services flow into and complement one another.

Contacting the placement

Contact us via email or telephone roughly two weeks before you start. If possible, do come in to have a look around and meet supervisors / Clinical Educator prior to your first shift.

Key named person to contact

- Amy Francis (Clinical Educator)
- Christina Lovell (Ward Sister)

Key members of staff:

- Ward Manager: Christina Lovell christina.lovell@ouh.nhs.uk
- Practice Development Nurse: Francesca Lis francesca.lis1@ouh.nhs.uk
- Clinical Educator: Amy Francis amy.francis@ouh.nhs.uk
- Matron: Hayley Smith hayley.smith@ouh.nhs.uk
- Lead Therapist: Neale Conner neale.conner@ouh.nhs.uk

Information about your placement

The inpatient unit has the capacity for 18 patients. There are 15 individual patient side rooms with en-suite bathrooms, two two-bedded and one three-bedded bay each with a communal bathroom. There is a Chapel on site, a Relatives' Room with space for two beds and many private quiet rooms dotted around the ward.

We provide specialist palliative care to patients and their families throughout Oxfordshire. Some patients are admitted to us straight from home whilst others are referred to us by the hospital team who look after palliative patients elsewhere on the hospital sites. Contrary to belief, not all patients who come into the hospice pass away here, many come in for symptom management with the aim of returning home or moving on to an alternative place of care. The average length of stay here is

around 14 days. We carry out many interventions that you see in other areas of the hospital, e.g. blood and platelet Transfusions, IV antibiotics, drain insertions and management and many other treatments that help ease symptoms and hopefully provide a better quality of life for our patients.

Key learning opportunities in the area

- Communication skills (often including difficult conversations)
- Last offices and observing nurse-led verification of death
- Suctioning
- Wound care
- Syringe drivers (although you won't be able to set these up, you will be able to observe the nurses and learn about the common medications we use in them)
- Working amongst the MDT to facilitate often very complex and time critical discharge planning

Both the pharmacological and non-pharmacological management of symptoms that are often associated with palliative and end of life care.

Spoke placements

- Community Palliative Care Team
- Hospital Palliative Care Team
- Days with complementary therapists e.g. art and music therapy

Typical shift patterns

- Long Day 07:30 - 20:00
- Night 19:30 - 08:00
- Early 07:30 - 14:00
- Late 13:30 - 20:00

Local education programmes in the area

- Weekly student school (SuWOn Division)
- Two-weekly Education Sessions which students are welcome to attend

Useful reading for the placement

NICE Guidelines: [End of life care for adults](#) and [Care of dying adults in the last days of life](#)
Information and evidence-based recommendations for health and care more aimed at professionals.

[Ambitions for Palliative and End of Life Care: A national framework for local action 2015-2020](#)

Marie Curie: [What are palliative care and end of life care?](#) will help you get a feel of what information and perspectives the general public have on palliative and end of life care.