

## Student Placement information

### Welcome to the CARDIOTHORACIC THEATRE DEPARTMENT.

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE UNIT

The Cardiothoracic Theatre Department provides perioperative services for the *Oxford Heart Centre*; it is under the Cardiothoracic Directorate which is a part of the Medicine, Rehabilitation and Cardiac Division of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Cardiothoracic Theatres provides expertise and excellence in the field of adult cardiac and thoracic surgery. Surgical cases include:

- coronary artery bypass surgery (CABG)
- valve replacement and repair
- minimally invasive surgery – off pump CABG and minimal access valve replacement/repair
- re-do CABG and valve surgery
- major aortic surgery in conjunction with vascular surgery
- repair of aortic dissection and aneurysm
- adult congenital heart disease surgery
- surgery for heart rhythm problems (ablation)
- thoracotomy – lung resections and lung volume reduction
- Video Assisted Thoracoscopy (VATS)
- Mediastinoscopy / Thymectomy
- Pleurectomy / Pleurodesis
- Open Reduction and Internal Fixation of Ribs and Sternum
- Bronchoscopy / Bronchial Valve Insertions

Specialist anaesthetic care supports all cardiothoracic surgical procedures. Services they provide include expertise in airway management, invasive monitoring, pain management and transoesophageal echocardiography. Intensive medical care also extends to Cardiac Angiography Suite and Cardiothoracic Critical Care unit.

#### Department Philosophy

The unit is committed to provide compassionate excellence in practice, promoting safe, evidence based and effective care in a positive work environment. We uphold the OUH NHS Foundation Trust values of compassion, respect, excellence, learning, delivery, and improvement.

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

Continuing education and skills development is an essential part of our practice.

## **Location**

Cardiothoracic theatres are in the **Main theatres, Level 1 of the John Radcliffe Hospital.**

Contact us for more information at:

### **CARDIOTHORACIC THEATRES**

JR Main Theatres, Level 1

John Radcliffe Hospital

Headley Way, Headington

Oxford OX3 9DYU

**Tel: 01865 857800**

**Email: [cardiothoracictheatres@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:cardiothoracictheatres@ouh.nhs.uk)**

## **Placement information**

There are three areas of theatre work – Anaesthetics, Surgery and Recovery. Most staff within the department work in their area of specialty. Cardiothoracic Theatres are composed of three operating suites (theatres 20, 21 and 22), all with their own dedicated anaesthetic room. The Cardiothoracic Theatre Team provides service in anaesthetic and surgery and a collaborative service with Critical Care Unit and General Theatres for patient recovery. Clinical services are also provided in satellite areas such Cardiac Angiography, Critical Units and Accident and Emergency as needed.

Key learning opportunities in Cardiothoracic Theatres varies according to the clinical management pathway of the surgical patient. Perioperative patient care involves 3 phases: preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative. Students on placement in the unit will be able to participate under supervision in the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of patient-focused, holistic care. ‘Surgery is an inherently risky process and surgical systems are highly complex’ (NHS England, 2015). Patient safety and advocacy are key roles that are highlighted in the perioperative learning environment. Specific learning objectives are also established according to specific task required in each areas of specialty. These are included in the Unit’s student Orientation Package.

The education team, along with your allocated mentor / practice supervisor and assessor, will be your primary support in your learning experience. Your learning will be focused on accomplishing your Practice Assessment Document primarily in the department. We will work with you to ensure you receive the support and guidance you need and achieve your learning objectives and competencies.

Other clinical areas outside theatres are also accessible for further learning experience on different aspects of the patient’s surgical pathway. Please discuss this with your assessor or practice educator.

Various spoke placements that offer further valuable learning opportunities are Theatre Direct Admission, Post Anaesthetic Care Unit, Cardiac Angiography Suite, Cardiothoracic Ward, Cardiology Ward, Cardiothoracic Critical care Unit, Chest Pain Clinic, Cardiac Physiology, Rehabilitation, Patient Clinics, Infection Control, Tissue Viability, and more.

### **Hours of Work**

The unit provides a 24-hour/ seven days service. All theatre team members generally work a 10 hour shift, four days in a week, Monday to Friday . Out of hours are covered by an On Call commitment.

Students follow the shifts that they are rostered in. The surgical scrub team works from 07:30 until 18:00 the anaesthetic team works from 07:00 until 18:30. Students on surgical scrub placement start at 07:30 whilst on anaesthetic placement start at 07:00.

Requests for off duty have to be discussed with the practice educator: shifts are scheduled to mirror the shifts of the main practice supervisor. Allocation will depend on the training needs and learning objectives.

Tea / coffee breaks are 15 minutes, lunch breaks are 30 minutes

### **INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING**

The Cardiothoracic Theatre Department is composed of multidisciplinary healthcare professionals and support workers.

- The medical team is composed of surgeons and anaesthetists. Cardiothoracic Consultant Surgeons and Anaesthetists lead the surgical cases. They are supported by specialist surgical registrars and anaesthetic fellows. They support both clinical and operational service of the whole Cardiothoracic Directorate.
- A team of Perfusionists monitor and maintain the physiological function of the cardiac patient during cardiac surgery. Their primary role is to run the heart/lung bypass machine, the cell saver, intra-aortic balloon pump and ventricular assist devices. Perfusion services also extend to A&E, Cardiac Angiography Suite, Cardiac and Thoracic Critical Care Unit and wards whenever required.
- A team of Surgical Care Practitioners provides surgical support throughout the patient's surgical pathway, conducting clinical pre- and postoperative assessment, harvesting conduits for CABG cases and providing continuous support during cardiac and thoracic surgery.
- The perioperative theatre team is composed of theatre nurses and ODPs (Operating Department Practitioners). They provide patient-centred care all throughout the patient's perioperative journey.
- There are three areas of theatre work – Anaesthetics, Surgery and Recovery. Most staff within the department work in their area of specialty. The Cardiothoracic Theatre Team provides clinical and technical expertise in anaesthetic and surgical services and has a collaborative service with Critical Care Unit and General Theatres for patient recovery. They are also responsible for the daily operational activities to support perioperative patient care and theatre lists.

- A team of support workers composed of perioperative nursing assistants (PNA), operating department orderlies (ODO), administrative and housekeepers provide valuable support towards perioperative patients care and theatre service.

You will be a part of this multidisciplinary team, all working together towards a common goal: to provide high quality, compassionate and safe patient care. Modern perioperative teamwork provides an ideal opportunity for interprofessional learning between all members of the perioperative team that ultimately improves the care of the surgical patient. Please feel free to approach any member of the team for advice and guidance, all will have a wealth of knowledge and experience which they are willing to share with you.

## **EDUCATION PROGRAMMES**

Local education programmes available and supported by the unit are:

- Perioperative New Starter Induction Day
- Perioperative Foundation Courses for Theatre Nurses / Practitioners
- Perioperative Foundation Courses for Theatre Nursing Assistants
- Audit days training on various topics
- Rolling Training on Medical Devices
- Student School
- Specialist Course Training
- Postgraduate Courses from Northampton, Oxford Brookes and Bucks universities
- Human Factors Training

OUH and external education and training available and supported by the unit and specialised teams:

- Functional Skills
- OUH Apprenticeships
- Nurse Associate Trainees
- Overseas Nursing Programme
- Post-registration specialist course
- Adult student nurses
- Operating Department Practitioner students
- Surgical care Practitioners Trainees
- Healthcare Scientist (Perfusionist) Trainees
- Medical Students

## **USEFUL WEBSITES AND BOOKS**

Please watch the following [video](#) before arrival; it discusses etiquette and behaviour within OUH theatres

[Association for Perioperative Practice](#)

[Association for PeriOperating Registered Nurses](#)

[Association of Anaesthetist of Great Britain and Ireland](#)

[British Anaesthetic and recovery room nurses](#)

[NICE guidelines](#)

Standards and Recommendations for Safe Perioperative Practice (2016) AFPP

Hatfield, A. (2014) *The Complete Recovery Room Book*. 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press: Oxford.

Conway, N. et al (2019) *Clinical Pocket Reference Operating Department Practice*. Oxford University Press: Oxford.