

# Student Placement information

## Oncology Ward, Churchill Hospital

### Welcome to the area

On the Oncology Ward we deliver medical oncology care. This means that most of our patients present to us with complications of anti-cancer treatment, tumour overgrowth or end of life care.

Their care needs are often complex and can be emotionally demanding. This makes the Oncology Ward a challenging and rewarding place to learn core nursing skills.

We are keen to support students and develop future nurses. We will provide named nurses to work collaboratively with you to ensure you gain the experience you need during your placement.

We look for students to demonstrate responsibility for their learning by working proactively with their named nurses, so do not be afraid to ask questions or put yourself forward to develop your skills.

### Contacting the placement

Please contact the ward two weeks prior to the start of your placement.

#### Key named person to contact

- Alicia Hulewicz, Clinical Educator
- Arisha Klapiscak, Ward Manager

#### Key members of staff:

- Ward Manager: Arisha Klapiscak [arisha.klapiscak@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:arisha.klapiscak@ouh.nhs.uk)
- Practice Development Nurse: Francesca Lis [francesca.Lis1@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:francesca.Lis1@ouh.nhs.uk)
- Matron: Hayley Smith [hayley.smith@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:hayley.smith@ouh.nhs.uk)

### Information about your placement

The Oncology Ward has 33 beds; 13 of these are in side rooms and 20 are arranged in four-bedded bays.

We receive patients with all kinds of solid tumour for a variety of acute procedures and conditions.

We also regularly welcome outliers from haematology ward who have 'liquid' or blood-based tumours and conditions.

#### Key learning opportunities in the area

Oncology is a fascinating area and full of learning opportunities. You will be encouraged to develop drug knowledge, build your understanding of how to recognise and respond to a deteriorating patient, practise clinical skills ranging from personal care to naso-gastric tube care, develop a clear, concise habit of documentation, become involved in admission and discharge of patients, and with nursing assessment.

### Spoke placements

- Haematology ward

- Triage unit
- Early Phase Clinical Trials Unit
- Therapists
- Discharge Co-ordinator
- Day Treatment Unit (chemotherapy suite)
- Oncology Outpatients
- Radiotherapy Department
- Opportunity to attend an introduction to the on-site Maggie's centre.
- Second year students may also spend time with Sobell House, the on-site hospice.

We are always willing to consider new ideas. If you find an aspect of the oncology patient's pathway interesting but that specific area is not listed above, then we are happy to consider ways to accommodate an appropriate spoke placement.

### **Typical shift patterns**

- Long day (LD): 07:00 - 20:00
- Night: 19:30 - 07:30
- Early (E): 07:00 - 15:00
- Late (L): 12:00 - 20:00

We typically arrange for your first one to two weeks to be short shifts to help you orient to the ward. After that we expect students to work the long shifts assigned to qualified staff.

### **Local education programmes in the area**

Local teaching sessions provided regularly.

### **Useful reading for the placement**

Foulkes, M. (2010) Nursing management of common oncological emergencies. *Nursing Standard*, 24 (41) pp. 49-56

Gabriel, J. (2012) Acute oncological emergencies. *Nursing Standard*, 27 (4) pp. 35-42