

Acute Dialysis Team, Churchill Hospital

Information about the placement

Welcome to the Acute Hemodialysis Team. Haemodialysis is a highly technical skill and our Acute Haemodialysis Team provides renal replacement therapy for acutely unwell inpatients. The Team is based on the Renal Ward and the staff also provide dialysis treatments for patients at the JR who are too unstable to transfer. There is also an out-of-hours on-call service for emergencies. Due to the time pressured nature of the treatments, our nurses excel at time management. Assessment skills are also strong, our staff constantly assess patients' health status and adapt treatments and care plans to meet complex and challenging care needs. During your placement you will have the opportunity to learn some of these technical skills so that you can fully integrate into the team.

Additionally, the Acute Haemodialysis team provides a very specialised treatment for some renal patient who are diagnosed with certain conditions. This treatment is called Plasma Exchange. You will be able to see this treatment first hand and learn about underpinning principles of this therapy.

It is during the quieter times, when patients are connected to treatment, that communication, medication administration and care planning can be practised. These times are also fantastic opportunities to speak to patients about their experiences to gain insight into what it is like living with chronic kidney disease or, for those with a new diagnosis of acute kidney disease, you will have the chance to understand what has led up to the renal failure. Haemodialysis provides ample opportunity to take the lead in promoting patient education and empowerment.

The Acute Hemodialysis Team works closely with the 7 haemodialysis units to provide patient care across six counties.

The 7 dialysis units that make up the Oxford Kidney Unit service are:

- Oxford Main Unit, Churchill Hospital
- Oxford Tarver Unit, Churchill Hospital
- Horton General Hospital, Banbury
- High Wycombe
- Stoke Mandeville, Aylesbury
- Milton Keynes
- Swindon

Contact details

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Please make contact with the placement as soon as possible.

Key learning opportunities

On first appearance, haemodialysis may appear to be too specialised an area for student learning, however you will see that there are lots of opportunities to practise and hone your proficiencies/competencies. In fact, a dialysis placement provides more opportunity for self-directed learning than any other area! Perfect for building up your portfolio of practice evidence. The team has specific resources to aid you with self-directed experiences and you are recommended to use these during your experience here.

- AKI and management
- CKD and management of long-term conditions
- Understanding biochemistry and haematology results
- Acutely unwell inpatients
- Fluid assessment
- Infection control
- Managing concerns and complaints
- Delegation
- Time management
- Escalation of care and inter-professional working

Suggested spoke placements

- Renal Day Case
- Renal Ward
- Renal Specialist Team – Access, Pre-dialysis, Renal Bone and Mineral Disease
- Peritoneal Dialysis Unit
- Urology Triage and Outpatients
- Transplant Ward
- Transplant Specialist Nurses
- Dialysis Units

Typical shift patterns

Monday to Sunday.

Long Days:

07:30 - 20:00

08:00 - 20:30

Interdisciplinary learning

A dedicated and knowledgeable team of nurses works closely with the medical team, pharmacists, dietitians, physiotherapists and psychologists to provide a holistic approach to delivering specialist patient care.

Useful reading for the placement

- [Think Kidneys](#)
- [Kidney Research UK](#)
- [Kidney Care UK](#)
- [National Kidney Foundation](#)