

The Carers

During your stay in hospital you may come in contact with all, or some of the following members of staff.

- Acute Pain Team
- Chaplains
- Clinical Nurse Consultant
- Clinical Nurse Educator
- Dietician
- Neurosurgical Case Manager
- Nurse Educator
- Nursing Unit Manager
- Occupational Therapist
- Pharmacist
- Physiotherapist
- Registrar
- Registered Nurses
- Resident Doctor or Intern
- Social Worker
- Specialist or Consulting Doctors
- Speech Pathologist

Visiting is restricted to two visitors per patient at any one time. This is so that staff can move freely around the patient and also ensures the patient receives adequate rest. It is a good idea to nominate a family member as a spokesperson. This person can then be the contact for extended family members and friends who wish to make enquiries about the progress of the patient. This will keep all family members up to date and allow nursing staff more time to care for patients.

What do I need to know before I go home?

Depending on your progress you may require some rehabilitation at a suitable rehabilitation hospital or you may require further treatment as an outpatient.

On the day of discharge you may be dispensed with three days supply of the required medications, it is then your responsibility to contact your local doctor for further prescription scripts. You will also receive an appointment time to see a doctor in the Outpatient's Clinic or to see your Consultant.

Further Information

If you have any questions during your stay please do not hesitate to talk to a member of the nursing staff, who will be only too pleased to try and assist you.

The information in this pamphlet was compiled by:

**The Department of Neurosurgery
Westmead Hospital**

**Clinical Nurse Consultant
Neurosciences
Page 09113**

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**Welcome to Ward D5c
Neurosciences Unit
Westmead Hospital**



This pamphlet is designed to be used as a guide to assist in the patients stay in the Westmead Hospital Neurosciences Unit.

Telephone 9845 5555

**Visiting Hours
12 midday to 2pm
4pm to 8pm
STRICTLY**

Introduction

The Neurosciences Unit or Ward D5c is a 31 bed situated within a major teaching hospital, which specialises in the care of patient's with a neurological condition. Examples include spinal and brain surgery, traumatic brain injury, cerebral bleeds, assessment and management of epilepsy, movement disorders and stroke. Some patients may only spend a short time in hospital while others can spend many weeks. Each patient is different. If you or your family have concerns please discuss them with a member of the nursing staff. The Nursing Unit Manager (NUM) is available during office hours Monday to Friday for any other enquiries you may have. The NUM's office is situated immediately at the entrance to the ward.

What will I need?

- A list of prescribed medications you are currently taking
- Relevant x-rays as requested by your doctor
- Pyjamas / nighties
- Dressing gown
- Slippers
- Soap
- Toothpaste and toothbrush
- Shampoo / conditioner
- Deodorant
- Razor / shaving cream

Note: Please do not bring medications, valuables or large amounts of money to hospital with you.

Pain Relief

Pain is different for different people. After any trauma or operation it is normal to expect some pain. The best method of pain control suited to you will be determined by the doctors looking after you in consultation with you, and the extent of your surgery or injuries. Hopefully your hospital stay will be as comfortable as possible. Please feel free to speak with staff about your pain to enable us to improve pain relief measures.

Drips and drains

An important part of your care may be the insertion of different types of tubes. These tubes will be removed as you recover and as soon as they are no longer required. Listed below are some of the tubes you may require whilst you are in hospital:

- ❖ A nasogastric tube (NG) is inserted into the nose to keep the stomach empty. This helps to prevent vomiting. It may also be used for
- ❖

feeding purposes, if you are unable to eat normally.

- ❖ An indwelling catheter (IDC) is inserted into the bladder and drains urine. As soon as possible, this will be removed and you can go to the toilet as normal.
- ❖ Wound drains are placed near your wound, and help to drain wound fluid and enhance healing.
- ❖ Drip or intravenous cannula (IVC) in your arm or into a large vein just below your shoulder, neck or groin. This will hydrate you until you are well enough to eat and drink. It also allows certain medications eg; antibiotics and pain relief to be given.

You may not require any or all of these tubes, depending on your medical condition and individual needs.

Please Note: Mobile phones are to be switched OFF in the ward area, as they may interfere with medical equipment.

Phone enquiries in respect to patient's condition, would be appreciated after 11 am. Patients are unable to use the ward phones, however the staff are happy to pass on messages.

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