

The Royal Blackburn Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Critical Care Unit

Information for Visitors.



The Royal Blackburn Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Critical Care Unit.

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The Royal Blackburn Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Critical Care Unit

An Introduction.

The Critical Care Unit is a highly specialised area within the hospital. We look after critically ill patients whose conditions can be life-threatening and who need constant close monitoring and organ support from highly trained staff, equipment and medication.

Patients are admitted either as emergency admissions who have often developed a sudden critical illness and deteriorated rapidly or planned admissions after some complex operations where they require a period of close monitoring.

Our Critical Care Unit is run and staffed by Consultants, specialist doctors and nurses who have undergone extensive training. We are supported by other specialist staff such as Physiotherapists, Pharmacists, Dieticians and Speech Therapists who may be involved in the patient's treatment.

We have 24 beds, that meet the critical care needs of the adult population (16 years and over) of East Lancashire and more than 1600 patients are admitted per year. We use specialised monitoring and machines. The level of care and support that patients require is dependent on the individual illness but can include breathing machines (ventilation), a type of kidney dialysis support (Haemofiltration), and multiple pumps to deliver drugs to maintain the circulation and blood pressure as well as deliver sedation and nutrition. Sedation is sometimes necessary to enable some patients to be helped with their breathing but will be the least that is necessary.

The Critical Care Unit is divided into three areas, Critical Care A (CCA), Critical Care B (CCB) and the Post-Operative Care Unit (POCU). We have 16 Consultants and over 140 nurses supported by Physiotherapists, Dieticians, Speech and Language specialists and other specialist nursing teams alongside Surgical and Medical Teams.

Each side (CCA or CCB) is managed during the day by a Critical Care Consultant, a Registrar and a junior trainee doctor who provide medical care. A senior nurse will coordinate the nursing team who will care for the patients individualised needs. There is a high ratio of nurses to patients within the Critical Care Unit and some patients will need one to one care.

Patients are admitted to POCU after major surgery and these patients are reviewed daily by one of the Critical Care Consultants as well as their own surgical team. These patients often need closer monitoring for 12 – 36 hours after surgery before returning to the ward for on-going care.

A separate Acute Care Team reviews patients who have recently been discharged from the Critical Care Unit. They also respond to patients that have been identified as deteriorating on the ward and might need transfer to Critical Care for a higher level of support.



This booklet is designed to give you information about the Critical Care Unit to help you while you or your friend or family member is an inpatient in the Unit.

We welcome any questions or comments that you or your friends or family may have.

If you have questions, about anything you think we might be able to explain or help with, please ask the nursing staff. They will either answer your questions or point you in the right direction.

The medical staff will try to speak to you as often as possible, if you wish to speak to them, please ask the nurse looking after you or your relative to contact the Critical Care Registrar or Consultant.



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Critical Care Unit

How to contact us.

Location

Critical Care Unit A, B and POCU
2nd floor
Royal Blackburn Hospital
Haslingden Road
Blackburn
BB2 3HH

Contact Details

General Hospital Enquires:

Please contact: Royal Blackburn Hospital Switchboard

Telephone: 01254 263555
Email: contact@elht.nhs.uk

General Critical Care Enquiries (including information about patients):

Please contact: Critical Care Side A: 01254 735001
Critical Care Side B: 01254 734048
POCU: 01254 732057
Email: Critical.Care@elht.nhs.uk
Fax: 01254 736050

Critical Care office and administrative enquiries:

Please contact: Emma Massey: 01254 735003

Trust website address: www.elht.nhs.uk

Social Media: @ELHTCritCare



The Royal Blackburn Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Critical Care Unit

Key members of Staff

Clinical Director	Dr Stephen Gilligan
Matron	Mrs Linda Gregson
Consultants	Dr Matthew Atkinson Dr Sri Chukkambotla Dr Sarah J Clarke Dr Iain Crossingham Dr Paul Dean Dr Anton Krige Dr Peter McDermott Dr Helen Makin Dr Carole Pilkington Dr Justin Roberts Dr Dominic Sebastian Dr Robert Shawcross Dr Ian Stanley Dr Nicholas Truman Dr Haroon Waqar-Uddin Dr David Watson Dr James Watts
Senior Sisters / Charge Nurses	Christine Barnes David Forrest Christine Fothergill Yvonne Helm Lynda Makin Rachael Speirs Pam Thomas Alison Yates

There are many different specialities involved in the care of patients within the Critical Care Unit. These include; Nurses, Doctors, Physiotherapists, Pharmacists, Dieticians and Speech and Language Therapists. There are also many other non-clinical staff such as Secretaries, Ward Clerks, Domestic, Technicians and Researchers without whom, the Unit could not function.

Most patients in the Unit have a nurse allocated per shift to look after their care. Sometimes one nurse may care for two patients if their needs are less acute or if they are improving.

The Critical Care Unit is divided into three areas, Side A, Side B and a Post-Operative Care Unit known as POCU. Each area is looked after by a Critical Care Consultant. There are a number of junior Critical Care doctors attached to each area, many of whom are training to become Consultants in Critical or Intensive Care Medicine.



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Critical Care Unit

Communication

Soon after you or your relative are admitted to the Unit, or sometimes before, the staff will discuss with you, the reason for admission, the risks and the outcomes that can be expected and the nature of the treatment that will be provided.

You are always able to ask questions about treatments and the role of you or the family in the decision making process.

A critical care admission can last from a couple of days to many weeks. The medical and nursing staff will always try to keep you up to date with progress. Sometimes it is useful to ask to meet with medical staff if you have specific questions. Please feel free to write questions down, we are aware that taking everything in can be difficult.

Treatments in Critical Care are not always successful and may not be appropriate for all patients. If the staff on Critical Care feels that a favourable outcome is not possible this will always be discussed with you.

Sometimes under these circumstances, we have to make difficult decisions as to whether or not we should continue with certain treatments that are in you or your family member's best interests.

This would be discussed in detail with you.