

What happens on the Intensive Care and High Dependency wards?

Information for patients



Welcome to Intensive Care or High Dependency



We look after patients that are very sick and need a lot of care. Our patients may have had an injury or have had an operation.

This leaflet shows you things you may see on our wards.

All the people in the pictures are nurses that you may see during your time here.

If you have any worries or are ever upset please do not feel scared to ask the nurses.

We are here to help you and get you better.



Coming into the ward



There is a bell on the wall outside the door. Press the bell and we will speak to you through the intercom system.

Please wait patiently it may take us time to answer if we are busy caring for people.



When **you** come onto the ward please **wash your hands**.

This is important to try to keep everyone safe from infections.

This is our nurses station



This is our main desk. It is where we answer the phone and do computer work. Someone will always be sat here so if you ever need help we will see you.

This is a Sister, they wear a deep blue uniform.

This is our relative's room



This is where your family or friends can wait or rest.

This is a bed space.

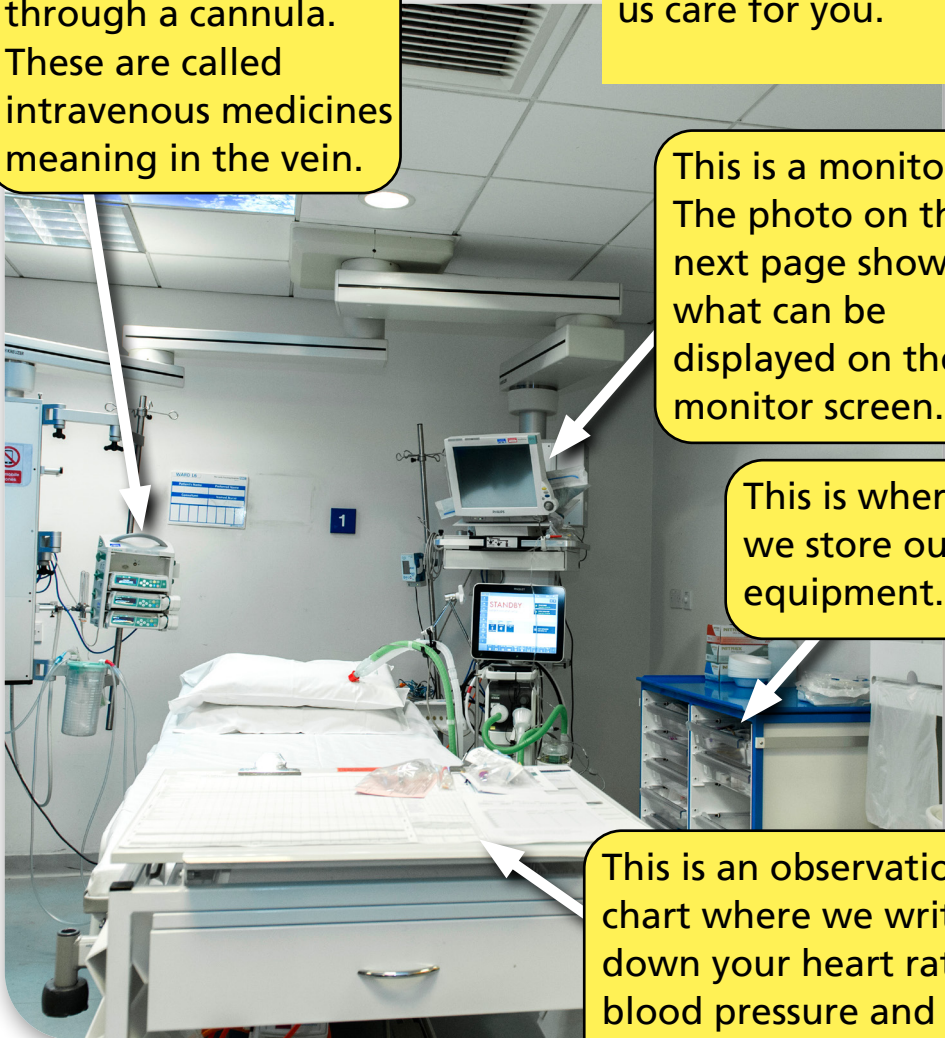
It can look scary. We need lots of equipment to help us care for you.

These are pumps which we use to give some liquid medicines through a cannula. These are called intravenous medicines meaning in the vein.

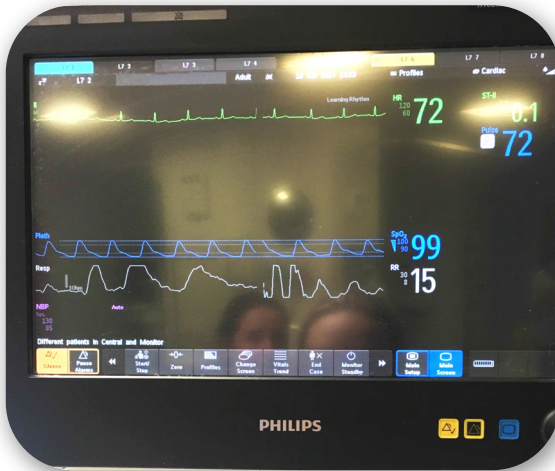
This is a monitor. The photo on the next page shows what can be displayed on the monitor screen.

This is where we store our equipment.

This is an observation chart where we write down your heart rate, blood pressure and other information.



The monitor



This is the monitor attached to all of the wires, it tells us your heart rate, your blood pressure, how fast you are breathing and the how much oxygen is in your body.

They are called observations.

We write all of this down every 1-2 hours in the observation chart!

This is Sarah, one of our Senior Sisters

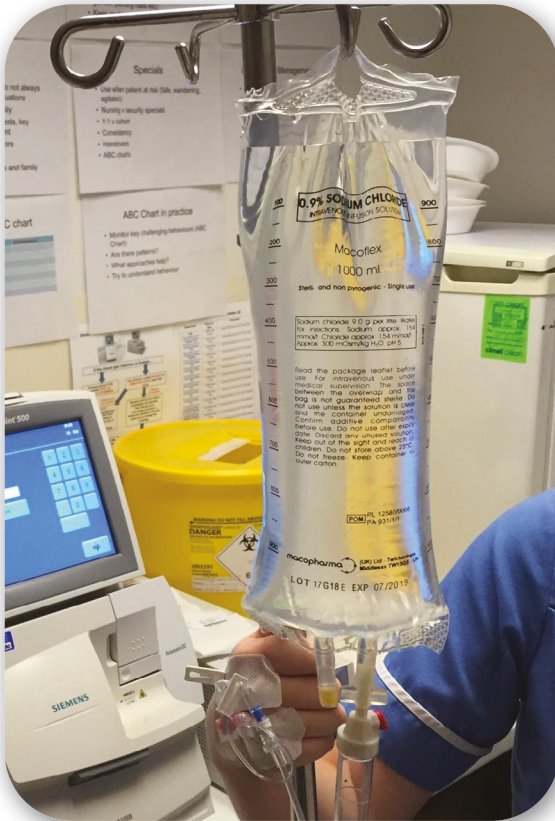


Senior Sisters / Charge Nurses wear Navy blue.

When you're in bed, you may find that you have lots of wires on you. This is so that we can see what is happening inside your body on our monitors.

Lots of wires and things stuck on you can be very upsetting. Tell us if it is upsetting you, and we will try to do something to help.

Intravenous medication



This is medicine that goes into the vein in your body.

The medicine goes through a piece of plastic tubing put in the vein in your hand or arm. It is called a cannula.

A needle is used to put it in. You may wake up with this in or we may have to put them in during your stay.

Oxygen



You may wake up with a mask on your face, this is to give you oxygen.

It is important you do not pull it off your face.



Oxygen can also be given through tubes up the nose. This is known as a nasal cannula.

It is important you do not pull them off your face.

Tube feeding

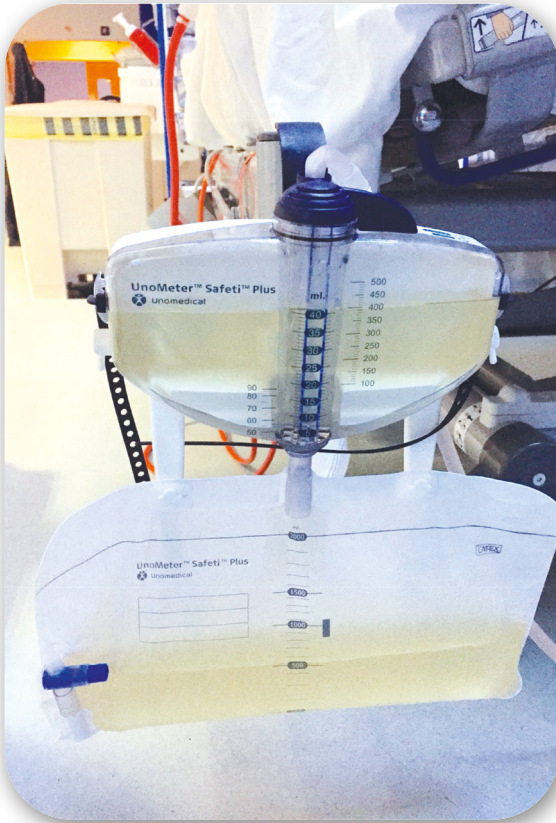


Sometimes if you cannot eat or drink we have to give you food through a tube in your nose that goes into your stomach.

This is to give you food and drink if you aren't having enough, or if you cannot swallow safely.

These are staff nurses, they wear a light blue uniform.

Catheter



This is a catheter. It goes in to your bladder and collects your urine.

This means that you don't have to worry about going to the toilet.

We can measure the amount of urine your kidneys make.

Ventilation and sedation



On Intensive Care patients may have a tube in their mouth attached to a breathing machine called a ventilator to help them to breath.

The patient may not move because they are being given medicines called sedation to keep them still and asleep, so that we can look after them properly.

The machines around the bed can be noisy, but they just tell the doctors and nurses of any changes.

CT Scanner



So that we can see inside your body to know what is going on, you may need to have a CT scan.

It can be noisy but it is very quick.

It is important that you stay still so that we can get a clear picture.

Further support or information

Alison Conyers

Lead Professional Learning Disabilities/Autism

Tel: 0113 206 6836 or 07899 988 703

Email: alison.conyers@nhs.net

Barbara Ball

Learning Disabilities and Autism Support Nurse

Tel: 0113 206 5011

Email: barbara.ball3@nhs.net

Leeds Teaching Hospitals has Learning Disability/Autism Staff Champions on each unit - please ask who this is when you visit or contact a ward or department.

Other organisations that provide care and support for patients, their family and friends are listed on the back page.

Headway

A UK-wide charity that works to improve life after brain injury. Through its network of more than 125 groups and branches across the UK, it provides support, services and information to brain injury survivors, their families and carers.

www.headway.org.uk Tel: **0808 800 2244**



Day One

A charity to help with the impact of major trauma through the Leeds Teaching Hospital.

www.dayonetrauma.org



Dementia Friends

The Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friends programme is the biggest ever initiative to change people's perceptions of dementia.



www.dementiafriends.org.uk

Tel: 0300 222 5855 (for urgent use only)

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