

What happens when your relative or friend is a patient on the Intensive Care and High Dependency wards?

Information for families, carers and
friends



Welcome to Intensive Care and 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 them get 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 you can sit and have a rest. You can wait in here if the doctors and nurses are busy looking after your relative or friend.

This is a bed space

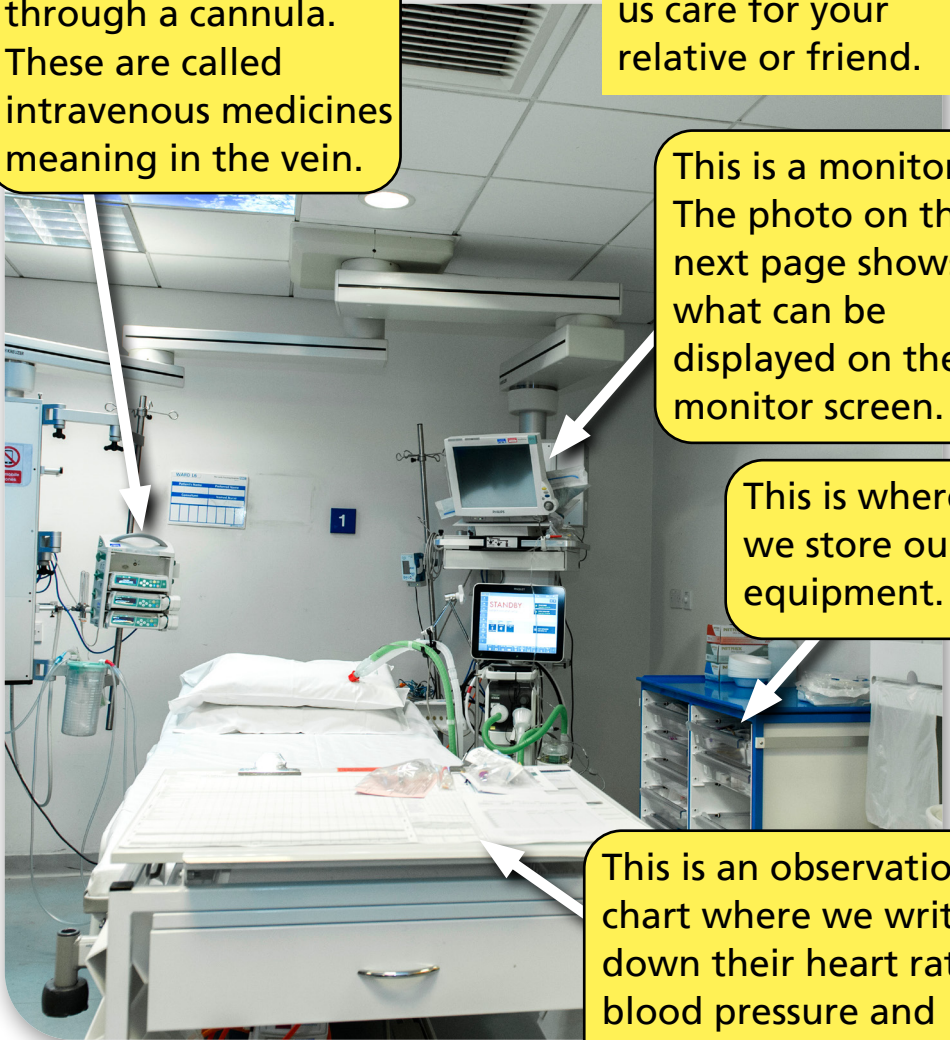
These are pumps which we use to give some liquid medicines through a cannula. These are called intravenous medicines meaning in the vein.

It can look scary. We need lots of equipment to help us care for your relative or friend.

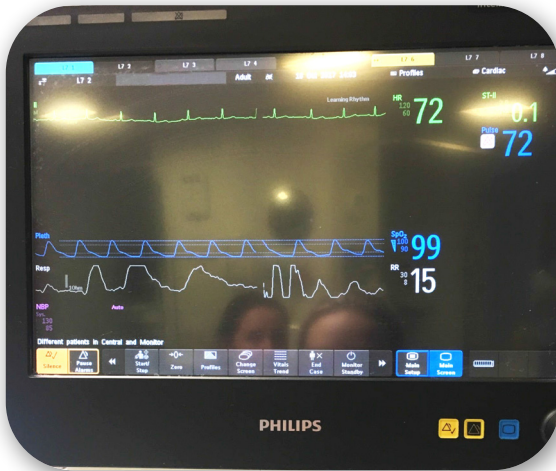
This is a monitor. The photo on the next page shows what can be displayed on the monitor screen.

This is where we store our equipment.

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



The monitor



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

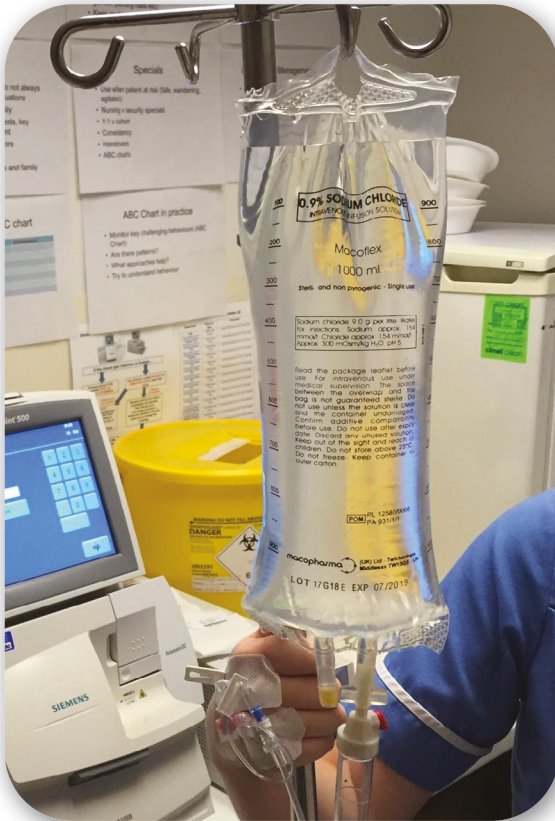


Senior Sisters / Charge Nurses wear Navy blue.

When they are in bed, you may see they have lots of wires on them. This is so that we can see what is happening inside their body on our monitors.

Seeing lots of wires and things stuck on your relative or friend 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 their body.

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

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



Oxygen



You may see a mask on their face, this is to give them oxygen.

It is important they do not pull it off their face.



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

It is important they do not pull them off their face.

Tube feeding

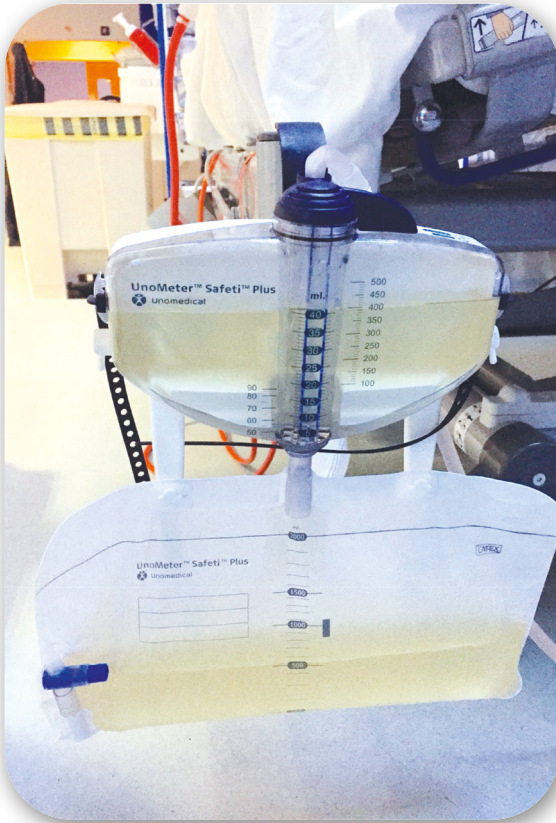


Sometimes if they cannot eat or drink we have to give them food through a tube up the nose that goes into their stomach.

This is to give them food and drink if they are not having enough, or if they cannot swallow safely.

These pictures show staff nurses, they wear a light blue uniform.

Catheter



This is a catheter. It goes into their bladder and collects urine.

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

We can measure the amount of urine their 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. This is 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 the body to know what is going on, your relative or friend may need to have a CT scan.

It can be noisy but it is very quick.

It is important that they 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)



What did you think of your care?

Scan the QR code or visit **bit.ly/nhsleedsfft**
Your views matter



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Developed by: Jasmine Whitworth Lane and Sarah Wild

Produced by: Medical Illustration Services • MID code: 20200217_015JG

LN004760
Publication date
01/2023
Review date
01/2026