



Corporate

Infection Control

Being nursed in a side room

Why do I need to be isolated?

Bacteria and viruses can cause a variety of human infections. These can sometimes cause problems in hospitals, therefore, special care is needed to reduce the risk of spreading infection to other patients and staff.

Some patients are also more at risk of infection because of their illness and need to be in isolation to help protect them from catching infections.

What is isolation?

Sometimes it is necessary to move patients to a single room, (which may have its own toilet or washing facilities) or to a dedicated bay in a ward (sometimes called a cohort bay). This is often referred to as 'isolation'.

Being in isolation allows health care workers to reduce the risk of spreading any infection to you or other patients. Staff may wear gloves, aprons and masks depending on the reason you are being isolated. The staff will explain this to you.

Please feel free to ask staff if you would like more information about any aspects of your care.

How is the infection spread?

The risk of acquiring or spreading infection can be higher whilst you are in hospital. This is because of the frequent contact you will have with health care workers and hospital equipment.

Other patients may also act as a source of infection. Contaminated hands are the most common way that infection is spread. To prevent this you will see health care workers washing hands, wearing gloves and using alcohol hand rub to reduce the risk of passing on infections.

Please read the hand hygiene leaflet for further information. There will be a notice advising staff and visitors of the correct precautions to take when entering a side room or caring for you.

Will I be able to have visitors?

Visitors must speak to the nurse looking after you before visiting. The nurse will advise on any extra care your visitors may need to take before entering your room. If visitors are having close contact with patients, such as helping with washing and dressing, it is suggested that gloves and aprons are worn.

Visitors should wash their hands with soap and water or use the alcohol hand rub when they leave you.

Will I be able to leave the room?

This will depend on why you are in isolation. The infection control team will have advised the ward staff of any extra care that is required should you need to visit any other departments. Being in isolation will not affect the care you receive.

Will my discharge be delayed?

Usually there will be no delay if you are returning to your own home. If you are well, it should not usually stop you going into a nursing or residential home where, although you may have a single room, you should be able to mix freely with most other residents.

If you need to be transferred to another hospital, you may experience a slight delay as the hospital may want to place you in a single room and this could take time to organise.

What happens when I get home?

When you go home you should live your life as normally as possible. It is very unusual that any special care will be required when you go home.

However if any is necessary the staff will discuss this with you before you are discharged. After you have gone home you can contact your GP for further advice if needed.

Notes

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If you need the information in another language or format please ask us

Nëse ky informacion ju nevojitet në një gjuhë apo format tjetër, ju lutem na kontaktoni

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