

Community hospitals

Emergency multidisciplinary assessment unit (EMU)

Your visit to the EMU

You have been referred to the emergency multidisciplinary assessment unit (EMU) by your GP or another healthcare professional.

Today you will be assessed by a doctor and the nursing team. You may also be assessed by the physiotherapist, occupational therapist, and the social worker, depending on your needs.

It is important that you give all of your current medications to the doctor or nurse in charge of your care. If you have forgotten your medications a family member may need to go home and get these for you.

What will happen in the EMU

The team will do some tests and start some treatment for you. We may also set rehabilitation and discharge goals with you. We may ask you to come back to the EMU each day for a few days so that we can review your condition, and check that your treatment is working. A family member or friend may need to organise things for you and keep a close watch on you when you return home.

How can the EMU staff help me?

The medical and nursing team are very experienced at assessing, diagnosing and treating a wide variety of medical conditions. They can also identify areas where further input may be required to ensure that you are as independent and safe as possible.

The physiotherapist and occupational therapist are experienced in assessing your mobility, and working to maximise your level of mobility with any aids that might be helpful. They also undertake a variety of assessments to identify what equipment and support you may need to maintain your independence. The social worker can assess your current home situation and your ongoing needs for care, whether short or long term.

Visitors

We find it helpful if one family member is identified to liaise with the EMU team. Space for visiting is limited and we would ask that you and your family are mindful of this.

Who will look after me at home?

The EMU team will work with you and your family to produce a plan to support you at home. We have access to services who can visit you at home for a few days and help with things like taking your tablets, or giving you injections.

What if I can't go home?

Sometimes the doctor will want you to stay in hospital in one of our allocated EMU beds. This bed is available for up to 72 hours. If you are not fit enough to leave after this time, we may need to transfer you to another longer stay bed in the Oxfordshire area. A longer stay bed may not always be available at a community hospital. If you do need to be moved to another hospital we will try to make sure that this is as close to your home area as possible.

A family member will need to organise some essentials for your stay in hospital and also pick up all of your medications.

What do I need in hospital

You will need to bring toiletries including soap, toothpaste, shaving foam, shampoo, flannels, toothbrush, comb, brush and razor.

You will need nightclothes including a dressing gown and several changes of clothes which will not be restrictive during your therapy. We do not provide laundry services except in emergencies.

Please bring slippers and a pair of shoes that you would normally walk in, for your therapy.

Side rooms

These are mainly used for infection control purposes. If you are admitted to a side room you may be asked to move to a four to six bedded bay if this is needed for another patient.

Privacy and dignity

Most community hospitals only have one ward. There will therefore be male and female patients on the ward although the ward is divided into male and female areas. There are separate toilets and bath/shower rooms and your dignity will be protected whilst you access these facilities.

If you have any concerns please speak to the ward manager/ sister.

Discharge planning

Discharge planning will begin from the first day of your admission. The EMU team will visit you every day during your stay to assess your progress. We will discuss your ongoing care plan with you. Sometimes additional care might be needed. We will discuss this with you during your stay. A family meeting can often be a good idea, particularly if your relatives have concerns about your return home after your stay in hospital. This meeting will give us the opportunity to discuss all the possibilities of how your care needs may be most appropriately met.

Your information

We may need to share your information with other health or social services staff who provide your care. If you have any concerns about this please speak to the EMU staff.

Concerns and complaints

We aim to provide you with a high quality service at all times. However, if you have any concerns, complaints or comments about your experience of our service then please tell a member of the team or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service on freephone 0800 328 7971 or email PALS@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

Contact us

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Emergency multidisciplinary unit co-ordinator Witney Community Hospital Welch Way Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 7JJ

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We are open seven days a week 8am till 8pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday.

Notes

Please use this page to record any information you find useful.

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