

Denis Burkitt Unit

Information for patients

Hope Directorate Patient Information Group

Shortly you will be joining us on Denis Burkitt Unit. We, the nursing staff would like to take this opportunity of welcoming you to St. James's Hospital and Denis Burkitt Unit. The unit was originally opened in 1984 and moved to its current location in 1996. It is named after Denis Burkitt, a well renowned Surgeon and Physician from Enniskillin, Co Fermanagh.

The nature of treatments used on Denis Burkitt Unit work by killing cells in your body. As a result your blood cells, which fight infection, will be reduced in number. This means that your ability to fight infection becomes reduced. Even a relatively minor infection can be very serious during your treatment. This booklet provides you with guidelines that when followed, will help to reduce your chances of contracting an infection.

Visitors:

1. Visitors may visit at any time. Please discuss with nursing staff.
2. No more than 2 visitors per room at any one time.
3. Strictly no children under the age of 14 are allowed onto the unit. It is a recognized fact that children incubate many infections such as the common cold, Chicken Pox and Measles, which may cause a serious infection for you.
4. Visitors are asked not to sit on a patient's bed.
5. Visitors cannot consume any foods or drinks while on the unit.
6. Visitors must not bring any fresh flowers or dried flower arrangements onto the unit as soil and water have been shown to contain bugs.
7. Visitors must not enter the pantry area or prepare any foodstuffs while on the unit.
8. Visitors must not use a patient toilet. A visitor's toilet is available.
9. All visitors must turn off their mobile phones on entering the unit. Patients are allowed to use mobile phones at the discretion of the nursing staff.
10. Visitors are asked to respect and work in conjunction with members of staff on the unit.
11. Report to Clinical Nurse Manager or senior nurse on duty, for advice if they have been in contact with an active bacterial or viral infection e.g. Influenza, Chicken Pox or presently have a Herpes Simplex infection.
12. Visitors on entering the unit should use the intercom system. They will then be instructed to wash their hands and directed to the appropriate part of the unit.
13. On entering a patients room visitors will be asked to wash their hands again and to put on a disposable apron.
14. When leaving a patients room visitors should remove their apron before leaving the patients room and wash their hands

Personal effects:

It is the policy on the unit to ask patients to **limit** the number of personal items that they bring with them. Again the reason for this is to try and minimize your chance of contracting an infection. *Denis Burkitt Unit also has no storage room for the storage of personal belongings*

Personal hygiene

Toiletries

Items allowed

- New tube of toothpaste, ideally for sensitive use.
- A *soft headed* toothbrush
- Any of the "Simple" range of products e.g. deodorants and moisturizing creams
- A soap dispenser rather than a bar of soap. (Simple products or Dove)
- Hair brushes, combs and slides
- Electric razor
- New toilet bag

Items not allowed

- Opened toothpaste tubes
- In use bars of soap
- Face cloths
- Perfumes and makeup (staff will advise on skin care during treatment)
- Open blade Razors
- Old or soiled toilet bags

Maintaining your own personal hygiene is one of the important ways of reducing your chances of contracting an infection. Because of this there is a great emphasis placed on personal hygiene in Denis Burkitt Unit. You will be asked to have a shower on rising each day. Several times through out the course of the day you will be required to carry out mouth care. The nursing staff will inform, explain and discuss all of the above with you on your admission.

Clothes, towels and slippers

- On admission to Denis Burkitt Unit you will be encouraged to send your outdoor clothes home.
- You will require a change of pyjamas or nightdress each day.
- A fresh towel is required for each day. If you are unable to make arrangements to have your pyjamas, nightdress or towels laundered, fresh ones will be provided.
- You should also bring with you a new and clean pair of slippers.

Food

Foodstuffs from home, restaurants or takeaways are not allowed on Denis Burkitt.

There are however a variety of foods available on a 24-hour basis as well as the regular breakfast, dinner and tea. Such foods include canned soups, pizzas, frozen dinners such as lasagnas and curries, chips, crackers, cheese, canned minerals, tea, coffee and biscuits.

Your room

Denis Burkitt Unit comprises of 15 single ensuite rooms. Each room in Denis Burkitts is equipped with a television and video cassette player. Videos that are brought into the unit should be placed in a plastic cover with can be easily wiped down with an alcohol.

Space in your room may be limited because of the variety of equipment and supplies required for your treatment. For this reason we advise that if you are to bring audio equipment with you it should be compact in size. Walkmans or portable C.D. players are ideal. Before bringing tapes and compact discs into a room you should inform the nursing staff who will advise you on how to clean same.

The use of electronic game consoles such as Play Stations should be discussed with the nursing staff, before they are brought on to the unit

Who will I meet during my stay in Denis Burkitts?

During your stay on Denis Burkitt Unit you will come into contact with many people, all with different jobs, but all working together to help you.

Clinical Nurse Managers: Royal Blue top and navy trousers

Staff Nurses: Powder blue top and navy trousers

Nursing attendants: White top and maroon trousers.

Kitchen staff: Pink top and navy trousers.

Cleaning staff: Light green top and navy trousers.

Doctors: Light green scrub top

You will also meet a variety of other people during your stay on Denis Burkitts Unit such as Clinical Nutritionalists, Social Workers, Pharmacists and members of the Spiritual Care team.

Phone Numbers to Denis Burkitts

(01) 416 2271

(01) 416 2395

(01) 416 2265

(01) 416 2226

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact Denis Burkitts Unit at any time.