

6. Non perishable items of food can be brought in for patients'. For perishable items of food please check with the nurse in charge.
7. Please do not go into the ward kitchen unless you have been given specific permission from ward staff.
8. Children should be discouraged from crawling on the floor and must be supervised at all times. Please ensure children keep their hands clean at all times whilst visiting.
9. Some wards do not allow flowers as they can make the area difficult to keep clean. Please check with the nurse in charge.
10. Talk to ward staff if you any concerns.

Further information

The Infection Prevention and Control Team 02380 874291 / 02380 874658

Public Health England: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england

Department of health: www.gov.uk

Infection Prevention and Control

Advice for visitors

This information is available in other formats and languages including large print, braille and audio.

**Please contact:
Access to Communications
023 8025 300**



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Quality care, when and where you need it



Together we can fight infection

Healthcare associated infections (HCAI) can be introduced and spread by patients and visitors. This leaflet explains how you can help the staff to reduce them and provide a clean and safe environment in which to care for patients.

By following the points in this leaflet, you can help us to prevent vulnerable patients picking up an infection and prevent the spread of infections. If patients pick up an infection, it can cause them additional pain and anxiety. It might result in additional treatments being required and could prolong their stay in hospital.

What can you do?

1. Make sure you are in good health before visiting

- If you have had diarrhoea and/or vomiting, you should be symptom free for at least 48 hours before you visit
- If you have a heavy cold, flu or a chest infection, stay away until your symptoms have gone away.
- If you have any open wounds cover them with a waterproof dressing.

2. Have you had contact with people with infections?

- Some serious conditions such as chicken pox, shingles and mumps may be a problem to patients. If you have been in contact with somebody who has an infection, it is best if you do not visit other patients until you have spoken with the ward staff or a member of the Infection Prevention and Control team before you visit. If you have not had these infections yourself in the past (or been vaccinated) you may become infectious to others before you get symptoms yourself.

3. Use the alcohol gel

- In most instances the most effective way to protect patients and yourselves is to use the alcohol gel provided when entering and leaving the ward. However in the case of *Clostridium difficile*, or when there is viral diarrhoea and vomiting on the ward we would ask you to wash your hands with soap and water.
- Please feel free to remind others if they appear to have forgotten.

4. Patients being cared for in an isolation room

- If a patient is being nursed in a single room or in a bay, please check with staff before entering and follow any instructions. Always perform hand hygiene on leaving.

Visitor checklist

1. In order to assist ward staff in maintaining high standards of cleanliness only bring in essential items and try to keep patients personal belongings in the designated locker.
2. Stick to visiting times and the number of visitors allowed
3. Please do not sit or lie on the patients' bed. Use the chairs provided. Do not use the patients' toilets.
4. Never touch patients' wounds, drips, or tubes etc. If you do so accidentally, please wash your hands immediately.
5. If you are visiting more than one patient perform hand hygiene in between them. You should visit the non-infectious patient first.