

Learning Environment



Core Therapies – Neurology RPH

Learner Booklet

Welcome

We would like to warmly welcome you to Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (LTHTR).

We have created this pack as a useful resource to help you to settle in with us. The purpose of this booklet is to provide you with information to help you on your learning environment.

About LTHTR

We have three equally important strategic aims:

- To provide outstanding and sustainable healthcare to our local communities
- To offer a range of high-quality specialist services to patients in Lancashire and South Cumbria
- To drive health innovation through world class education, training and research

We provide a range of Hospital based health services for adults and children and cover a range of specialities. These include cancer services such as radiotherapy, drug therapies and surgery, disablement services such as artificial limbs and wheelchair provision. Other specialities include vascular, major trauma, renal, neurosurgery and neurology including brain surgery and nervous system diseases.

Our five core values:

- Being caring and compassionate
- Recognising individuality
- Seeking to involve
- Building team spirit
- Taking personal responsibility



We deliver care and treatment from three main facilities:

- Royal Preston Hospital
- Chorley and South Ribble Hospital
- Specialist Mobility and Rehabilitation Centre, Preston

In relation to car parking, please refer to your Induction to the Trust, for information regarding car parking. Additional information can be found on our Intranet page.

<https://legacy-intranet.lthtr.nhs.uk/car-parking-documents>



Learning Environment

Welcome to the Integrated Therapy Team in Neurology. We are a friendly and dynamic team that consist of Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists and Integrated Therapy Assistants.

We really hope you enjoy your placement with us! Starting a placement can be a daunting experience so we hope that you find this information a useful resource.

Our Service:

The Neurology ward is called Bleasdale and is a 22-bedded, regional unit for Central and West Lancashire and South Cumbria. It provides specialist inpatient services for individuals with complex neurology issues.

Common conditions seen on Bleasdale include:

- Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
- Parkinson's Disease (PD)
- Encephalitis
- Motor Neurone Disease (MND)
- Neuropathies
- Guillian-Barre Syndrome (GBS)
- Functional Neurological Disease (FND)

We work with patients of varying ages and backgrounds (generally 18+, although occasionally 16+) that have potentially life-changing neurological disease. In addition to physical problems patients often have cognitive deficits, behavioural problems and communication difficulties, alongside mood/anxiety issues.



Potential Learning Opportunities:

- Neurological assessment, treatment and discharge planning.
- Joint working with other MDT members.
- Communication skills – using alternative methods of communication with patients.
- Patient centred goal setting and treatment planning.
- Cognitive/behavioural assessment and treatment skills (OT students)
- Movement analysis and clinical reasoning - how/why patients move as they do (PT students)
- Therapeutic handling skills.
- Prioritisation of caseload and time management skills.
- Functional assessment skills (OT students)
- Knowledge of the Bobath concept and its application in a hospital setting.
- Tone management/positioning/Botox.
- Wheelchair/Seating assessment and provision (OT students)
- Signposting and discharge planning to a variety of community settings.

Your Placement with us:

When you arrive, it would be useful to give us a brief outline of your previous experience. This will help your clinical educator to support your individual development.

It is also expected that students have thought about their main objectives for the client group prior to placement. We can support you to develop these objectives once you've familiarised yourself with the clinical area.

We would like your placement to be a two-way learning process between your clinical educator and yourself. We expect that you will have a positive attitude to learning, take responsibility for your own learning outcomes and share this with your clinical educator.

It is important that you advise your educator of anything which may impact on your placement e.g. Illness, injury and/or additional needs.

Note Writing:

All notes are written electronically on Quadramed, and partially saved. Your clinical educator must check the entry before it is saved fully.

We always use the SOAP note writing format.

Reflection:

We expect learners/trainees to use reflective practice as a method of development during their time with us. We also recommend completing a SWOT analysis at the start and end of the placement.

Suggested Reading:

- Related reading to the mentioned neurological conditions on the previous page.
- Neurology and Neurosurgery illustrated. Lindsay et al (1997). Churchill Livingstone.
- A basic understanding of neurophysiology and the role of neuroplasticity in rehabilitation.
- The Bobath Concept - By Sue Raine and Linzi Meadows.
- Neurological Physiotherapy. A problem-solving approach.
– Sue Edwards.
- Anatomy and Human Physiology – Tortora
- Please also familiarise yourself with the Bobath and Motor Re-learning concepts (the BBTA website is a good resource).

Location:

The Neurology unit is located separately from the main Core Therapies department. We are in a stand-alone building at the back of the hospital site – opposite the Maternity Unit. The sign outside our building says, 'Medical Rehab Unit'.

On your first day a member of our team will come to greet you from the Core Therapies main department and show you how to get to the ward – unless arranged otherwise when you contact us.

Hours of Work:

We currently work Mon-Fri, 8.00am – 4.00pm.

Contact Phone Numbers:

You can contact a member of the OT or PT team by ringing the main hospital switchboard on 01772 716565 and then asking them to bleep 2252. Alternatively, you can ring the ward on 01772 524312.

Illness or Late Arrival:

If you are ill or will arrive late, please contact your clinical educator (on the number above) as soon as possible on that morning (and keep us advised regarding your likely return date). Please speak to a member of the team directly, but if this is not possible then leave a message and try again later and or leave your name and contact number. If you are absent due to ill-health, please also email learner.absences@lthtr.nhs.uk

Lunchtime Arrangements:

Lunch break is taken between 12.30-1pm. We have access to a small fridge on the ward and tea/coffee making facilities (NB. Any food must be dated and labelled with your name). Our team tend to bring packed lunches but you are welcome to purchase food from the canteen or the shop at the front of the hospital.

Changing Facilities:

As per Trust policy we ask for you to arrive and leave work in your own clothes and bring your uniform with you to change into. We have male and female changing rooms available to us. You will be able to leave a small bag in a locker or in the office. There may be times when you're are expected to wear your own clothes for community integration with patients (please keep this in mind when choosing what to wear).

We look forward to meeting you soon on your placement in Neurology!

Induction

The Local Induction process will take place throughout the first week of your placement.

This will comprise of:

- Trust and department orientation, including housekeeping information
- Location of emergency equipment
- IT access
- Reading & acknowledgement of Mandatory Trust policies such as Health & Safety, Fire Safety, Infection Control, Information Governance, Staff Code of Conduct, Social Networking and Dress Code policies.
- Adult Basic Life Support training if applicable
- Trust Moving & Handling Training if applicable
- COVID-related policies & procedure
- Orientation
- Professional voice: - freedom to speak up, datix, chain of command, open door policy
- An awareness of our Educational Governance Team- evaluation and importance of feedback
- Inter-professional Learning Sessions
- Practice Assessment Record and Evaluation (PARE) training, if applicable
- Collaborative Learning in Practice (CLiP™), if applicable
- How the role of Practice Development Facilitator can support you, where applicable



What to bring on your first day

- Uniform: All other items in the dress code policy must be adhered to <https://legacy-intranet.lthtr.nhs.uk/search?term=uniform+policy>
- A smallish bag which would fit into a small locker.
- You may wish to bring a packed lunch and a drink on your first day.

Inter-professional Learning Sessions and eLearning Resources

At our Trust, our Education Team facilitates a yearly programme of Inter-professional Learning (IPL) sessions. This programme consists of various teaching sessions, delivered by our Specialist Teams, to support and enhance our learners and trainees' learning experience with us.

Inter-professional learning is an important part of your development and allows you to build professional relationships and communication skills with the wider multi-disciplinary teams. Our IPL sessions are valuable in supporting you to stretch your knowledge and experiences to enhance your clinical practice. They also help bridge the gap between theory and practice, allowing you to hold a deeper understanding of the topics discussed. Our sessions are open for all learners and trainees on placement at our Trust to attend and these learning opportunities are an extension to your learning environment; therefore, these hours need to be recorded on your timesheets. We encourage our staff to facilitate enabling a learner/trainee to attend these sessions.

Please note: You must inform your learning environment prior to attending a session. These IPL sessions need to be discussed in a timely manner with your learning environment.

You are required to complete a reflection on each of your IPL sessions, as well as documenting on your HEI documentation what you have learnt and how this relates to your current placement.

You can book onto our IPL Sessions by accessing this link <https://elearning.lthtr.nhs.uk/login/index.php> and searching for 'IPL'.

You can access our policies and procedures via our Intranet page, which will help expand and stretch your knowledge.

Support with evidencing your learning outcomes or proficiencies

We encourage you to use the Trust learning logs to collate and evidence your skills, knowledge and abilities achieved. You can then present your completed learning logs to your Practice Assessor/Educator during your assessment meetings.

Any staff member who is involved in coaching you can complete your learning log feedback.

You can request time during your placement hours to complete these and request feedback prior to the shift ending. To obtain a copy of our learning logs, please visit our Health Academy Webpage on the link below, where you will see a copy of our CLiP™ Learning Log available for you to download, on the right hand side -

<https://healthacademy.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/support/clinical-placement-support/collaborative-learning-in-practice-clip/>

Creating a positive Organisation Culture

LTHTr strive to create a great place to work for every colleague and deliver excellent care with compassion to our patients. We all play a pivotal role, not only in providing services but also in shaping the culture of our organisation.

The attitudes, actions and behaviours we experience from others makes a huge difference, both personally and professionally. We want you to feel safe and supported in work to be able to deliver high quality care to others. We also want you to feel confident, supported and empowered in taking positive action to address and challenge others in situations that may make you or those around you feel uncomfortable.

We take a zero-tolerance approach towards any form of abuse. You can find out more about this by reading our [Zero-Tolerance Statement](#), or by taking a look at [Creating a Positive Culture Intranet pages](#).

Here you will find the links to lots of information, resources and training opportunities to help develop your knowledge, skills, and awareness in how to uphold the principles of [zero-tolerance](#), as a colleague at LTHTr.



There is also further information available on [Civility](#), our [Best Version of Us Culture Framework](#) and Supporting Sexual Safety in the Workplace.

Chain of Command

Keeping patients safe, providing the best care that we can and learning in an environment where you feel safe and valued is important to us. Speaking up about any concern you have on your learning environment is also important. In fact, it's vital, because it will help us to keep improving our services for all patients.

There may be occasions where we witness, experience or are asked to do something that causes us concern. Often these concerns can be easily resolved, but sometimes it can be difficult to know what to do.

Our Clinical Placement Support Team are available Monday to Friday, 8.00am – 5.00pm should you need to contact them in relation to any concerns regarding your learning environment.

If your concern relates to patient safety and/or your concerns are outside of these hours, please follow the chain of command in your learning environment and speak with the person in charge.

Please visit our Freedom to Speak Up page on the Intranet for more details.



We value your feedback

Our Trust values your feedback. To continuously improve, we offer opportunities for our learners and trainees to provide feedback regarding both your learner experience and your learning environment. We would encourage you to kindly complete your end of placement evaluation, within your clinical hours.

We will keep you updated with the improvements that we make based on the feedback you provide us with.

Learning Environment Improvement Forum

Our Learning Environment Improvement Forum began in November 2021, with key stakeholders attending; Learners, Trainees, Clinical Staff, Education Leads and our Nursing Directorate. Monthly meetings are held to share new and innovative ideas as to how we can collaboratively enhance our learning environments, to support both learners, trainees and staff.

All attendees at the Learning Environment Improvement Forums contribute their suggestions and guidance on our projects. Collaboratively, exciting improvements are implemented to enhance our learning environments.

Innovative changes made by our Learning Environment Improvement Forum, within Academic Year 2021-2022;

- NEW Learner Boards designed and placed on our learning environments
- Learner booklets made available on our Health Academy webpage to prepare our learners and trainees for their clinical placements, as suggested by our learners and trainees
- PARE and CLiP™ training embedded into our Learner and Trainee Inductions
- Quick Reference Guide designed and created to welcome our learners and trainees to the Trust and prepare them for their clinical placements

We welcome any of our staff, learners and trainees at the Trust to attend our Learner Environment Improvement Forums, to contribute your ideas and suggestions for our new and innovative projects. You can join via the E-Learning Portal - <https://elearning.lthtr.nhs.uk> and going to Courses, then selecting the tab 'Inter Professional Learning', where you will see our forum listed.