

Learning Environment



Clinical Investigations Unit (CIU)
CDH

Learner Booklet

Welcome

We would like to warmly welcome you to Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (LTHTR). Incorporated on the 1st of April 2005, LTHTR was the first trust in the county to be awarded “Teaching Hospitals” status.

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

We would like to welcome you to your learning environment. We are based at Chorley Hospital on Astley Ward. We are a nurse led outpatient clinic, providing non-surgical treatments as a day treatment service.

The clinic provides treatments for patients with a variety of conditions. Throughout this placement you will be given the opportunity to research and gain knowledge of many types of conditions that are treated, monitored and managed on CIU.

Orientation to the ward

- Meet your allocated mentor
- Clinic walk around
- Meet other members of staff
- Emergency buzzer / fire exits
- Resus trolley

Hours of work

- Monday – Friday 08:00 -16:00
- 08:00-08:30 – Huddle
- 08:30 – Treatments commence
- Saturday –Sunday 08:00 – 13:00 (OPAT treatments ONLY + Clinic prep for following week)
- Learners are not expected to work regular weekends

What to bring on your first day

- Small notebook
- Pens / highlighters
- PARE documentation ready

Sickness & Lateness Policy

- Ring clinic at 8am for any sickness/lateness
- If due to be absent, contact your University
- If due to be absent, email learner.absences@lthtr.nhs.uk

Changing facilities

- Staff room / toilets available
- Please follow our Uniform policy

Catering facilities

- Staff room with microwave / toaster / staff fridge
- WRVS Café at main entrance or Costa Coffee on Level 1

Learning opportunities available / transferable

- PICC line care
- Safe blood transfusion
- Documentation
- Communication skills
- Recognising the deteriorating patient
- IV medication
- IV pumps
- ANTT
- Venepuncture (where applicable)
- Cannulation (where applicable)

Below is an overview of treatments and tests that the clinic provides:

BLOOD TRANSFUSION

A blood transfusion is a common procedure in which patients receive blood through an intravenous (IV) line for patients with severe anaemia or blood loss. Observations must be completed pre transfusion, 15 minutes post transfusion and at the end of the transfusion.

Blood transfusions are common at CIU. There are many reasons why patients require a blood transfusion. It could be due to haematology conditions, pre surgery requirement or oncology requests. A blood transfusion takes between 2-4 hours to complete unless stated otherwise by a doctor.

The most common blood types are A, B, AB, O, Rh-Positive or Rh-Negative.

The blood used for transfusion must be compatible with the blood group of the patient. Otherwise, antibodies (proteins) in the blood attack the new blood which makes the patient severely unwell resulting in a blood transfusion associated reaction which can result in death. Approximately 40% of the population have type O blood. Type O Rh –ve blood is used for emergencies when there is insufficient time to test a patient's blood type. People who have this blood group are called Universal donors. People who have type AB blood are called Universal recipients. This means they can receive any type of blood.

CROSS MATCHING/ GROUP AND SAVE

All patients requiring a blood transfusion will need to have a valid group and save or a cross match. A cross match is a blood test which ensures the donors blood is

compatible with the blood of the intended recipient. Compatibility is determined by pathology in which they check the cross match to determine the blood group ABO and Rh as well as testing for the presence of any antibodies. If a patient has had a blood transfusion within the last three months the cross match will only be valid for 72 hours.

PLATELET INFUSIONS

A platelet infusion is used to treat people who have abnormally low levels of platelet cells in their blood. This is known as Thrombocytopenia.

A low platelet count will mean the patient is at risk of excessive bleeding, either through a minor accident, cut or graze, or because of surgery or dental work.

Causes of Thrombocytopenia that may need treatment with platelet infusions are:

- Types of Cancers such as Leukaemia or Lymphoma
- Chemotherapy or bone marrow transplants, which reduces the production of platelets
- Chronic Liver disease or Cirrhosis (scarring of the liver, which has many causes, such as alcohol abuse)
- Sepsis or severe infection. This can cause abnormal clotting and low platelets

INTRAVENOUS ANTIBIOTICS

The clinic provides an outpatient antimicrobial therapy (OPAT) service. This service prevents patients having to remain in hospital for extended IV antibiotics. These patients are required to come daily for IV antibiotics but as an outpatient. The patients are reviewed by the microbiology team on a regular basis. The patients are usually referred from the wards within the hospital, or from A+E or urgent care services this helps reduce the number of beds being used and gives the patient more independence. If the patients require long term antibiotics, they may have a peripherally central inserted catheter (PICC) line in situ.

A PICC line is a long, slender, small flexible tube that is inserted into a peripheral vein, usually in the upper arm and advanced until the catheter tip terminates in a large vein near the heart to obtain venous access. A PICC line can be used for a prolonged period of time and can be in situ up to a year. The insertion of a PICC line is done using ultrasound by a specialised trained nurse from the Central Venous Access Team (CVAT). There are different types of venous access that you will become familiar with on the unit.

FERINJECT INFUSIONS

Ferinject is an Iron replacement product indicated for the treatment of Iron deficiency Anaemia. It is given intravenously, and the dosage is dependent on the patient's Haemoglobin level (HB), Iron level and weight.

Most patients are referred for IV Iron therapy when they are unable to tolerate oral Iron medication. You cannot give more than 1000mg of Ferinject in one week. It is given in 100 or 250mls normal saline over 15 minutes. Patients are asked to wait 30 minutes post infusion for observation of any type of reaction before being discharged.

INFLIXIMAB INFUSIONS

Infliximab is a monoclonal antibody used to treat Ulcerative Colitis and Crohns disease, which are the two main types of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Infliximab is given intravenously (IV) and the dosage is weight dependent. We need to ensure the patient is free from infection. Infliximab reduces the bodies over reaction in the bowel that can cause chronic inflammation. The infusion is given over a 1–2-hour period and the same rest period post infusion to observe for reactions.

VENESECTIONS

Venesections are similar to donating blood but the blood is harvested for medical reasons.

The two conditions treated with venesections are Haemochromatosis and Polycythaemia.

Haemochromatosis is a hereditary condition which results in an iron overload leading to damage of vital organs, especially the liver if untreated. The patient's haemoglobin (HB) is monitored to make sure the patient does not become anaemic during the course of treatment. The ferritin and iron stores are also monitored to stay within normal parameters. The protocol for haemochromatosis states that we should aim for a ferritin level of 50. However, this set as directed by the consultant. This may also vary with different trusts.

Polycythaemia is a type of blood cancer and is an overproduction of red blood cells. The patient's haemoglobin (HB) and haematocrit (Hct) are monitored due to the high level and thickness of red cells. Patients are at risk of developing blood clots if untreated and can be fatal. The protocol for polycythaemia states that we should aim for a haematocrit reading of 0.45 or less to maintain stability, unless directed by the consultant.

INTERNATIONAL NORMALISING RATIO (INR)

Patients attend CIU for an INR check. This is a finger prick or blood test. The normal therapeutic INR range should be 2-3. Patients will attend with us until they are in the therapeutic range then attend anticoagulant clinic. Most people who attend for an INR check come as a result of a having a pulmonary embolism, deep vein thrombosis, atrial fibrillation or mechanical heart valve. These patients need a medication called warfarin or less often Synthrome which decreases the rate at which blood clots in the body. The risk of bleeding is increased, so careful monitoring is required.

ENDOCRINE TESTS

- Short Synacthen test (SST)
- Water deprivation test
- Glucose tolerance test
- Glucagon stimulation test
- Growth hormone day curve
- Cortisol day curve
- Dexamethasone suppression test
- Arginine stimulation test

These tests can be explained in detail by staff nurses on CIU.



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/>

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 – Friday, 8.00am – 4.00pm 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.