

Learning Environment



**Core Therapies – Oncology and
Palliative Care**

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

Welcome to the Oncology and Palliative Care Integrated Therapy Team. We are a small team with a big heart. We are a very integrated team of Occupational Therapists (OT) and Physiotherapists (PT) delivering a therapy service to adults, predominantly with a cancer diagnosis. We work across 2 wards at Royal Preston Hospital – Gynaecology and Ribblesdale. The Gynae ward is a regional 14 bed ward for patients with cancer and non-cancer gynae issues. Ribblesdale is a newly refurbished regional 24 bed oncology ward for patients requiring hospital admission at any point in their Cancer Journey.

Staffing:

B7 OT Team Lead

B7 PT Team Lead (Part time – Mon, Weds, Thurs)

B6 OT

B6 PT

B3 Senior Therapy Assistant

Core working hours:

Monday – Friday, 8am – 4pm with 30-minute lunch break.

There is a fridge and microwave available to use in the Core Therapies Department and team members generally bring their own lunch and have a team lunch together in the staff room or you could buy food from the on-site shop at the entrance of the hospital or choose to eat in the canteen.

Sick Leave:

Phone the office **01772 523399** prior to/as near to the start of your shift as possible and speak to your Clinical Educator if possible or a Band 7 on the 1st working day of sickness, stating when your sickness commenced. If you know that you are going to be off for more than one day then that can be discussed and a return date can be agreed, if not then you must call daily. You should also inform learner support on learner.absences@lthtr.nhs.uk or telephone 01772 528444.

If you are off sick with diarrhoea and vomiting, you **MUST** be 48 hours clear of symptoms prior to returning to work.

Bleeps:

PT 4231, OT 2852

To bleep; phone 66, the bleep number, then the extension number you are calling from, hang up and wait for them to call you back.

When answering a phone please remember to say who you are and where you are.

Uniform.

As per the trust COVID guidelines, a clean uniform must be worn daily while you are on placement. You **MUST NOT** travel to and from work in your uniform – there are changing rooms available within the therapy department, but locker space is limited and therefore advise you to bring the minimum of valuables with you. Mobile phones (on silent) are allowed to be carried during the day.

Referrals

Every morning a member of the team attends the Ribblesdale oncology ward MDT handover at 09:00. Gynaecology usually refers electronically.

All referrals are electronic via QCPR / QuadraMed – therefore if a verbal referral is received, please ensure the referrer is also made aware to refer electronically as well.

Learning opportunities:

While on placement you will work with a diverse Multi-disciplinary Team, learning from them through your daily interactions.

As an integrated Therapy Team there will be opportunity to work alongside our OT/ Physio colleagues, and possibly spend time shadowing members of the MDT/visit radiotherapy.

Documentation

Assessment and treatment sessions are written directly on to quadramed using a SOAP note format. Please ensure you write your name and designation at the end of the note and this will need to be countersigned by a qualified member of staff. Please familiarise yourself with the SOAP format (staff will be able to advise if you have any concerns).

Suggested reading:

There is no expectation to complete any pre-reading before placement, however there is lots available online (please see useful links) for information to look at.

You may find having an understanding of cancer and treatment options for cancer highly useful, also TMN staging <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/diagnosis-staging/staging>

WHO Performance Status. This is what often guides the oncologist to decide if the patient is well enough for any further treatment

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjX_prRrND4AhV6S0EAHWpdAy8QFnoECAMQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nbt.nhs.uk%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Ffiledepot%2Fincoming%2FWHO_Performance_Status.doc&usq=AOvVaw0Shkf4KVTZtvdWpKGsDo1H.

Useful Links:

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/>

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/information-and-support/coping/side-effects-and-symptoms/other-side-effects/malignant-spinal-cord-compression.html>

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/information-and-support/treating/radiotherapy/radiotherapy-explained>

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/information-and-support/treating/chemotherapy/chemotherapy-explained>

<https://www.cancer.net/navigating-cancer-care/diagnosing-cancer/stages-cancer>

<https://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Hysterectomy/Pages/Abdominalhyst.aspx>



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.