

Learning Environment



Core Therapies - Vascular

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 your placement on the Vascular Ward at Royal Preston Hospital. We hope you enjoy your placement and find this pack useful.

Meet the Team.

We currently have 3 qualified Therapists on the Vascular ward: -

Clinical Lead OT – 0.8 WTE

Band 6 OT – full time

Band 6 Physio

We also have 2 Senior Therapy Assistants who are integral to the team.

We work closely with the wider MDT, including the nurses and our Discharge Facilitator (DF). Vascular Nurse Specialists, Pain Team, Tissue Viability Nurses, Dietitians and the Diabetic Team are also regular visitors to the ward. You will have opportunity to spend time with these specialist services while you are on placement.

We also work closely with, and support our surgery and oncology therapy teams, and share an office in the main therapy department.

Hours of Work.

The therapy team generally cover the core hours of 8am – 4pm. It may be possible to alter these hours slightly (for example for childcare or public transport issues), and this can be clarified by your educator preplacement if required.

We have 30 minutes lunch break at around 12.30. There is a canteen and shop on site, but staff are also welcome to bring in their own lunch, and we have fridge facilities within the main department.

Vascular Surgery at Royal Preston Hospital (RPH)

The Vascular Unit at RPH is a regional centre, covering the localities of Central Lancashire (Preston and South Ribble), Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde, Wigan and Leigh, and Lancaster, Morecambe Bay and Kendal (including Barrow in Furness). Any patient who attends ED in these areas with an issue that requires vascular intervention will be seen at RPH. The ward also accepts patients from the various HOT (high observation therapy) clinics that are run in each of the hospitals in those areas, and via GP referral.

The population span covered by the unit is over 1.6 million.

The service runs on a “hub and spoke” model, with RPH being the “hub”, and the regional hospitals being the “spokes”. Patients cannot be transferred back to their regional area until they have finished treatment for their vascular condition, but **can** be transferred back for rehabilitation, or for a non-vascular issue.

The team are based on ward 15, a 33 bedded ward consisting of single side rooms and 4 bedded bays, with 1x5 bedded bay. You will be shown around the ward on your first placement day.

There are multiple surgeries and interventions completed on the ward including: -

- Angiograms
- Angioplasty (with or without stents)
- Endarterectomies
- Thrombectomies
- Arterial bypasses
- EVAR's
- Amputations.

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with these procedures and the implications for therapy throughout your placement. Useful websites for information include

[The Circulation Foundation | The UK Vascular Disease Charity](#)

[Limbcare - Be Inspired To Achieve](#)

Other conditions to familiarise yourself with include: -

- Diabetes
- Leg ulcers
- Intermittent Claudication

Within the team “t-drive” we have numerous resources for you to access, including in service presentations on common vascular conditions/surgeries and amputations, regional guidelines including NICE guidelines on diabetes and peripheral vascular disease, BACPAR physiotherapy guidelines on the treatment of amputees, and RCOT guidelines on lower limb amputations. There are also several books and files of useful articles for you to access.

Referrals

Referrals are taken from the nurse in charge on each ward every morning during handover. There may also be occasions where other MDT members and other therapy colleagues refer. The hospital uses a system called quadramed to log all referrals and patient interactions. The team prioritise all discharges and new patients first to assist with patient flow through the hospital.

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).

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 we therefore advise you to bring the minimum of valuables with you.

Infection control

Please make yourself aware of the red/amber/green (COVID) patients on your wards. Face masks must be worn at all times, and apron and gloves for each patients. Please follow trust guidelines with regards to PPE – you will be made aware of these.

Please ensure you follow the Trusts handwashing policy at all times. Also be aware of the procedure for barrier nursing with regards to other infection control issues other than COVID which still apply eg C-diff and MRSA.

Sick Leave

You must follow your university sickness policy as well as contacting your supervisor on 01772 523399 or 01772 523399 when you are off sick, stating when your sickness commenced. You should also inform learner support on learner.absences@lthtr.nhs.uk or telephone 01772 528444. 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. Your supervisor will contact the hospital placement support unit to make them aware of your absence. If you are off with D and V you **MUST** be 48 hours clear of symptoms prior to returning to work.

As per trust guidelines, you must not come into work if you test positive for COVID. If you are classed as a “close contact” for a positive COVID case, you will need to contact your educator to follow the trust policy on close contact cases. Staff and students are expected to complete regular lateral flow testing throughout their work week.

Please make yourself aware of your departmental telephone number at the start of the placement so that you can use it if required.

Useful numbers

Surgery office 3399

Main therapy reception 2876

Vascular therapy office on ward 15 8369

Add 52 in front of an ext number to phone from outside the hospital.

Bleeps

To bleep Phone 66... the bleep no... then the ext no...

Vascular therapy bleep – 3440

Physio Ward 3 (urology) and Ward 12 (Upper GI) 3399

Physio Ward 11 (head & neck) and Ward 10 (colorectal) 3323

OT surgery 4632

Oncology physio bleep – 4231

Oncology OT bleep 2582



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.