

Learning Environment



Neuro High 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

We would like to welcome you to your learning environment – Neurosurgical High Care Unit.

Hours of Work

Our shift patterns are 12 hours and are 7:00am-7:30pm on a day shift, and 7pm-7:30am on a night shift.

Contact Telephone Numbers

NHCU telephone number: 01772 528192

Orientation to Ward

Orientation to the ward will be carried out by either the nurse in charge on shift, or your Practice Assessor. This will be completed on your first shift and subsequent initial meeting will be completed on this day.

Sickness Policy

Our sickness policy involves ringing the ward telephone number (01772 528192) and speaking with the nurse in charge on that shift. You must also contact your university to inform them of your absence as per placement guidelines and email learner.absences@lthtr.nhs.uk

What to bring on your first day

A pen, a notebook, and your diary to jot down your roster. We'll provide you with a pen-torch (an essential for neurosurgical nursing). Please bring a water bottle to keep hydrated and most importantly something to eat.

Changing Facilities

We have limited changing facilities in our area, therefore arriving to the hospital in your uniform is acceptable if it is covered with an appropriate coat. Otherwise, changing facilities can be found in other areas within the hospital.

Please note it is best practice to change out of your clinical uniform prior to travelling home due to infection control prevention. Considering this, it is understandable that due to limited changing facilities this is not always possible – but please try and adhere to this when able.

Catering Facilities

We have two main spaces for breaks, a kitchen and break room located between Ward 2A and 2B, or the conservatory located next to Ward 2B kitchen. Both kitchens have fridges, a kettle and microwave facilities for you to utilise as you wish.

There are two cafeterias, one at the main entrance with a costa coffee and Charter's Café located on the ground floor of the main hospital. Please seek further information related to their opening times – found on the trust intranet.

We also have a Marks & Spencer concession located at the main entrance, as well as a variety of food shops off-site next to Booth's supermarket.

Team Structure

Our team is made up of fantastic nursing and healthcare staff, including ward sisters and our ward manager. Extended team members within our MDT include;

- Neurosurgical Specialist Nurses (neurovascular, neuro-oncology and nurse practitioners)
- Neurosurgical Doctors (senior house officer, registrar, consultant)
- Neuroradiology team
- Specialist therapy teams – Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists
- Dietician
- Critical Care Outreach
- Theatre and Recovery Staff

Learners/trainees can attend SPOKE placements shadowing and working alongside some of our MDT colleagues, this can be organised and arranged with your Practice Assessor once you commence your placement.

Learning Opportunities

NHCU is fast paced and busy unit, where we care for acutely unwell, demanding patients. As a learner/trainee you will get the opportunity to learn about a multitude of neurosurgical conditions, diseases and injuries as well as the procedures used to treat these and best practices when nursing patients affected.

With the support and guidance of your mentor, below is a list of some learning opportunities you will gain exposure to;

- Prepare patients for theatre
- Receive them from recovery to provide post-operative care
- Provide wound care, including wound dressings, removal of sutures and clips
- Experience caring for level 2 patients, including those with tracheostomies, EVDs, lumbar drains, arterial lines and ICP monitoring
- Record neurosurgical observations, including vital signs, GCS, pupillary reaction and limb assessment
- Expand knowledge and skills related to the escalation of an acutely unwell patient, including A-E assessments, emergency procedures, seizure management and airway management
- Collaborate with our physiotherapy and occupational therapy colleagues
- Experience caring for patients with tracheostomies, including tracheostomy care and management
- Experience caring for patients with nasogastric or PEG tubes, developing knowledge related to insertion of nasogastric (NG) tubes, administration of enteral feeding or medications via an NG or PEG tube, collaborating with our dietician and nutritional nurse colleagues
- Gain a better understanding of the Mental Capacity Act (2005) and the importance Deprivation of Liberties (DOLs) and safeguarding in neurosurgery

Commonly used Medicines

- Nimodipine
- Dexamethasone
- Levetiracetam
- Paracetamol
- Dihydrocodeine
- Glycopyrronium
- Hyoscine Patch
- Oramorph
- Ondansetron
- Cyclizine
- Meropenem
- Vancomycin
- Amlodipine

Expectations and Professional Values

As healthcare professionals we expect our learners/trainees to act within their appropriate limitations and professional boundaries. This by following the trust values and policies, the Nursing & Midwifery Council code of conduct (NMC, 2015) and additional legislation such as General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR, 2018) and information governance.

In line with our trust values, we should always act with professionalism, integrity, compassion, empathy, understanding, candour, showing respect to all staff, patients and relatives from all groups or backgrounds.

Escalations of Concerns Policy

No matter the concern or issue, we advise you to escalate this to a member of staff you feel most comfortable. This could be your Practice Assessor, the nurse in charge of the shift, a ward sister, the ward Learning Environment Manager (LEM) or our Ward Manager. You can also escalate any concerns with your university so long it adheres to our information governance policy.

Our Practice Assessors and LEM) have regular contact with the trust Clinical Placement Support Team (STAPs), as well as further contacts with our Learner Support Team.



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.