

Learning Environment



Surgical Assessment Unit (SAU)

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.

Surgical Assessment Unit (SAU)

SAU is a fast-paced emergency admissions unit, admitting patients from ED, GP, Urgent care and their homes.

We care for patients under 6 specialities: general surgery, vascular, orthopaedics, ENT, plastics and urology.

Our Team

We have multiple MDTs that we use on SAU which include ACPs (assistant clinical practitioners) they can clerk, review and prescribe. We have doctors ranging from FY1, FY2s, Registrar and consultants on call throughout the specialities.

SAU is not assigned its own pharmacist but is allocated one daily. Occasionally SAU will use the discharge coordinator located on ward 4. We have bed managers, TACT team, Infection control, theatre staff, pain team, mental health team and safeguarding team.

The nursing team on a typical day will consist of a Sister/Charge nurse, 5 RNs an Assistant practitioner, 5 HCAs a house keeper and a ward clerk.

Shifts

Our shift patterns are typically long days which start at 8am – 2030, Our night shifts are 2000-0830 and sometimes we use a twilight shift 1400-0230. We do 3 days a week.

You will be given door codes on your first day. We will also show you round the unit and explain the whiteboard and unit layout to you. Please bring a pen and some paper or notebook to jot down door codes.

Facilities

We have a fridge, microwave and a geezer for your breakfasts and dinners but please be aware we do not have access to a staff room, so all breaks take place off the unit generally to the canteen. We allocate a little extra time to your break to account for this. You get a morning brew break for 20min and a main afternoon break for 40mins.

We have a changing room, so it is important you change into own clothes at the end of shift in line with trust policy.

Sickness

If while on placement you need to call in sick, please contact the unit as soon as possible on:

01772 521700

Speak to the nurse in charge and update daily until you are returning and ensure you contact the university. You will also need to email learner.absences@lthtr.nhs.uk

Spokes

We offer many learning spoke placements you can attend to broaden your knowledge for the SAU. These include spending time with bed managers, CVAT, CCOT, ECG team, Infection control, Various specialist nurses. You will be provided with a booklet containing further spokes on your first day. The booklet will inform you of your mentor and other little snips of information which will help guide you while you are with us.

Common Medications

On the unit you will come across many drugs that we use on a day-to-day basis. Most common ones you will see are:

Analgesics:

Paracetamol
Dihydrocodeine
Morphine and oromorph
Diclofenac
Buscopan

Anti-emetic (anti-nausea)

Cyclizine
Ondansertron
Meteroclopramide

Anti-coagulants

Fragmin
Heparin

Some of these may be familiar from your previous placements.

Skills

You will be shown many skills that are transferable throughout your training. These include medication rounds, obtaining observations, venepuncture, cannulation (if allowed at your university), documentation, handing over and admitting patients.

Concerns/Complaints

We expect you to treat all patients with dignity and respect and communicate well with them and the team. Any concerns about anything on placement should be escalated promptly to the nurse in charge so we can help you and keep everyone safe. Also, if you have anything your really interested in please let your mentor know then they can guide you in achieving it.

Emergency process

Everyone that has a placement with us needs to know the emergency process in case anything happens like a collapse or a security incident. If you find a collapse patient, you must shout for help and pull an emergency buzzer if it is safe to do so. The nurse may ask you to put a call out which is 2222 on any phone within the hospital. To the operator you must state adult cardiac arrest and where you are i.e., Sau bay 1 bed 3. 2222 can also be used to get security assistance fast so to that you state security when the operator answers.



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.