

## Relatives and friends

Although a relative/close friend is welcome to come to the Day Case Unit with you, we generally advise that he/she should wait at home until you are ready for discharge. If your relative/friend wishes to stay at the hospital he/she can use the hospital restaurant or the League of Friends pavilion for any food or drink needs. There is also a drinks machine in the reception area of the hospital.

We ask hospital visitors to use the toilets in reception, and not those on the ward, as patients often need to use these facilities urgently.

## Admission to hospital

Should you need to be admitted to hospital for longer than one night we will transfer you to one of our other wards.

The Day Case Unit closes at night and is unable to care for patients over long periods of time. If you need to be admitted to hospital we will let you know and tell you and your relatives the name of the ward where you will be cared for.

## Useful contacts

To contact the Day Case Unit you can telephone:  
01895 828885 or  
01895 828803.

Should you need advice when the unit is closed our colleagues on the Medical Care Unit may be able to help. You can contact the Medical Care Unit by calling:  
01895 828667 or  
01895 828644.

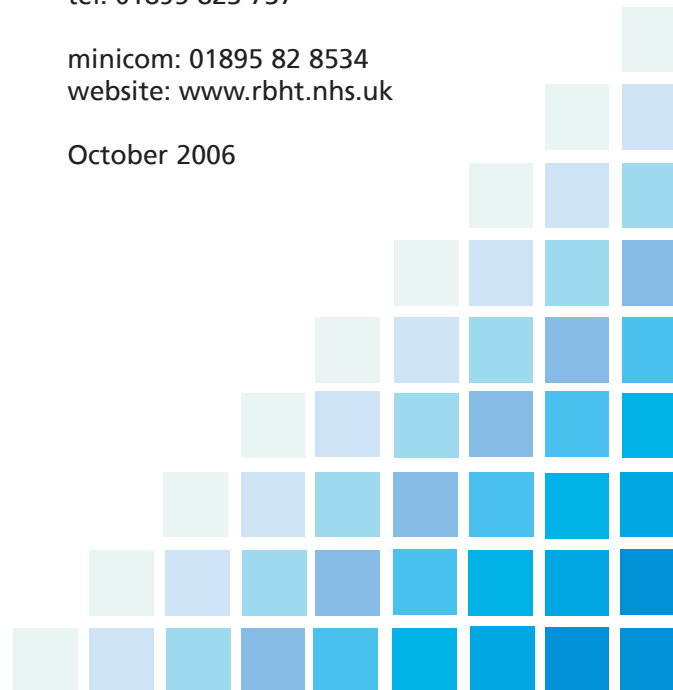
© Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Trust

Royal Brompton Hospital  
Sydney Street  
London  
SW3 6NP  
tel: 020 7352 8121

Harefield Hospital  
Hill End Road  
Harefield  
Middlesex  
UB9 6JH  
tel: 01895 823 737

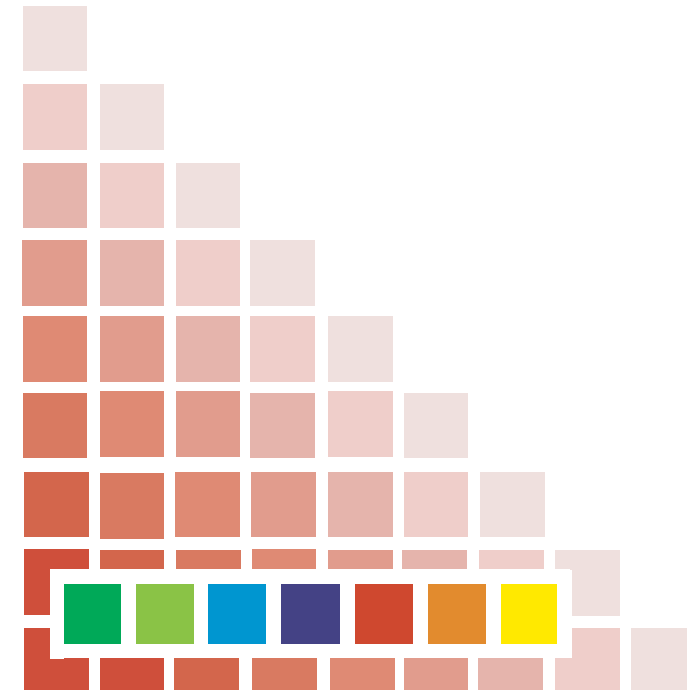
minicom: 01895 82 8534  
website: [www.rbht.nhs.uk](http://www.rbht.nhs.uk)

October 2006



Harefield Hospital

# Your stay on the Day Case Unit



The Day Case Unit is a small ward that cares for patients who have procedures/treatments where the recovery time needed is generally short, meaning that they can go home later the same day. The unit is run by a qualified nurse with the help of health care assistants who will admit you to the unit and plan your care for the day. The unit is open from 7.15 a.m. until 8.00 p.m.

The Day Case Unit is a mixed-sex ward. We do try to separate male and female patients, although there may be occasions when this is not possible.

### Before coming to the Day Case Unit

On the evening before you come to the Day Case Unit please telephone the ward between 5.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. to confirm that a bed is available.

Please have a shower or bath on the day before you come to the unit.

If you are due to have an angiogram you will need to shave a four inch square in your groin and pubic area before coming into hospital. However, if you find this difficult a member of staff can help you when you reach the unit.

Please bring with you to hospital:

- a dressing gown
- all your medication
- a pair of slippers that have a good grip and provide support to the foot.

### Your procedure

Your procedure will be carried out in a catheter lab or operating theatre. We do try to complete day case procedures as early in the day as possible but there are occasions when procedures cannot be carried out until later in the day. This is usually because other patients have needed emergency treatment or due to other circumstances beyond our control. We apologise in advance if your procedure is affected in this way.

### Eating and drinking

A member of staff will let you know whether you can eat or drink before your procedure.

Following your procedure we will serve you a hot drink. We will also provide you with a sandwich for lunch and a hot meal in the evening if you are still on the unit. We will also serve hot drinks at various times during the day.

### After your procedure

Following your procedure you will need to rest in bed for a period of time, followed by at least an hour of walking around the ward area.

A doctor will usually see you later in the day to check on your recovery and review your medications. If your medication needs to be changed we usually get these from the hospital pharmacy.

However, if the pharmacy is closed we will give you advice about where you can get these medications.

There may be occasions when a doctor may not be able to see you until late in the evening. This can sometimes be as late as 9.00 p.m. if the doctors have been busy dealing with emergencies in the catheter labs. However, please be assured that you will be seen.

### Discharge (leaving the Day Case Unit)

Before you are discharged (able to leave hospital) a nurse will give you instructions about any aftercare or appointments you may need and will give you advice about any changes in your medication. Please make sure that you see the nurse before leaving the unit to make sure you have all the information you need.

Before you leave the unit please make sure that you have arranged for someone to collect you from hospital as you will not be allowed to drive home. Unfortunately we cannot provide patients with transport home unless this has already been arranged with the transport desk (please note that transport is only provided for patients on the grounds of medical need and not because a journey is long or inconvenient).