



A lifetime of specialist care

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**Royal Brompton
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Critical care

Nurses in our critical care units care for patients following cardiac and thoracic surgery. They also look after patients who require specialist ventilator support

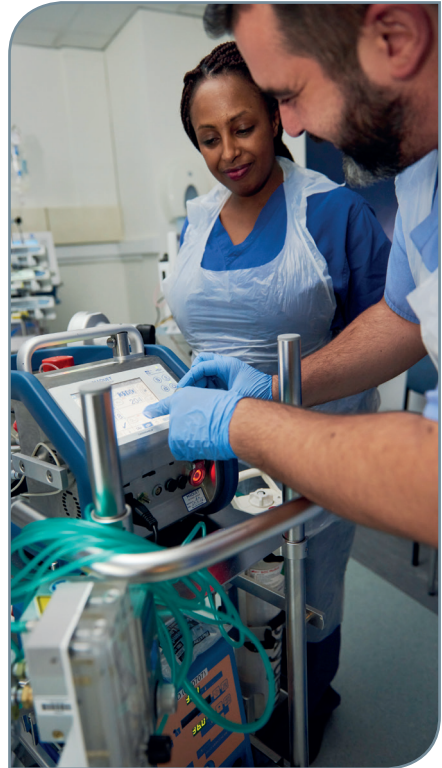
Adult intensive care unit, Royal Brompton Hospital

The adult intensive care unit (AICU) at Royal Brompton has 20 beds and takes patients following cardiac and major thoracic surgery.

We also take patients who have severe medical cardiac conditions and who may require optimisation prior to surgery, intra-aortic balloon pumping or management of ventricular assist devices (VAD).

Patients with extensive respiratory problems are also provided with specialist ventilator support. Patients who develop renal failure are managed effectively with haemofiltration, a renal replacement therapy.

The patient-nurse ratio is based on one-to-one care, or two-to-one once the patient is stable. In addition to the AICU, there is a separate 10-bed post-anaesthetic care unit that is fully functioning



from Monday to Friday. This facility is managed by the AICU modern matron and enables seamless care between the AICU, theatres and the ward areas.



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Critical care unit, Harefield Hospital

The critical care unit is made up of the cardiothoracic recovery unit, intensive therapy unit (ITU) and high dependency unit (HDU).

Cardiothoracic recovery unit

The cardiothoracic recovery unit has seven beds for patients who have had procedures such as coronary artery bypass grafts (CABG), valve surgery, thoracotomies, bronchoscopies and cryotherapy. Cardiac patients stay 24 to 48 hours before stepping down to HDU.

High dependency unit (HDU)

The HDU has 10 beds for step-up and step-down care. Thoracic patients are usually discharged to the ward or HDU on the same day of their procedure, although some patients will be cared for overnight in recovery. HDU takes post-

operative thoracic surgical patients requiring invasive monitoring, step-down patients from ITU and recovery. It also takes patients requiring non-invasive ventilation (NIV), renal replacement therapy, pacing and tracheostomies.

Intensive therapy unit (ITU)

The intensive therapy unit has 18 beds (soon be 24). Staff care for a variety of cardiology, transplant and surgical patients. Patients are admitted to the unit from theatre, the primary angioplasty service and from other hospitals.

The unit also cares for patients requiring extra corporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), intra-aortic balloon pump (IABP), renal replacement therapy (RRT), management of ventricular assist devices (VAD) and complex respiratory support.

Shift patterns

There are a variety of shift patterns, and flexible working arrangements are available.



Where to find us

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