

Guy's and St Thomas'

NHS Foundation Trust



Welcome to the Lane Fox Unit



showing
we **care**

Lane Fox Unit

Welcome to the Lane Fox Unit (LFU).

We provide expert care in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Our aim is to improve the quality of life for all our patients. We encourage you to be as independent as possible and support the involvement of your family.

We specialise in all forms of respiratory support including non-invasive ventilation (NIV), invasive ventilation and other breathing support such as cough machines. NIV most commonly involves a face mask which allows extra air to be pushed into the chest when you breathe. This is usually only needed at night. The LFU supports over 1,200 people with respiratory failure to live at home and enjoy good health.

We also specialise in liberating patients from invasive (tracheostomy) ventilation following critical illness. In most cases the tracheostomy can be removed. Overnight NIV may be needed during the weaning process and long-term in some people. A tracheostomy may still need to be used if the speech and swallowing muscles are weak. Our goal is to help all patients with respiratory failure to live as independently as possible.

This leaflet gives you information specific to the Lane Fox Unit. You should have also received the leaflet, **Welcome – information about your stay**, which has useful information about your stay in hospital and the general services available. Please tell your nurse if you do not have a copy.

Your care on the unit

The unit has 14 beds sectioned into five bays. Patients are cared for in a bay with people of the same sex, unless their clinical need means this is not possible. When the patient is in a mixed sex bay, we will move them to a single sex area as soon as we can. The bedside nurse can give you more information about this.

The unit is lead by the clinical director, Dr Nicholas Hart, and ward sister, Natalie Grey. If you would like to speak to them during your stay, please tell the nurse in charge. Dr Joerg Steier, Dr Patrick Murphy, Dr Philip Marino and Dr Hina Pattani are senior doctors (consultants) who will also be involved in your care.

Our team is made up of dedicated and experienced doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and other health professionals. We are determined to give our patients not only the very best treatment but also to care for them as individuals, with dignity and respect.

You will meet your nurse at the start of every shift. If you have any questions or problems, please talk to your nurse. If s/he is unable to help, please ask to talk with the nurse in charge/sister.

Ward rounds

Ward rounds generally start at 10am. The consultant on duty holds a ward round on Mondays and Fridays, but can see patients on other days if needed. The consultant's team will visit you every morning. You can write down any questions you would like to ask in the Notes section of the Welcome booklet or the white board by your bed.

Meal times

- Breakfast 8am
- Lunch 12pm
- Dinner 6pm

Hot drinks are available at all times from the tea trolley which is in the reception area. This is free for patients but we ask visitors to make a small donation. Our catering assistant will also do a tea round in the morning and in the afternoon. If you would like a hot drink at other times, please ask a member of staff to make one for you.

Infection control

The healthcare staff will wear an apron and may use gloves when caring for you. They will take swabs from your skin when you arrive in the unit. This involves wiping your skin with a small piece of cotton or gauze. We do this to check for Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) and other microorganisms.

Flowers can be placed in the day room or reception area. Please do not put them at the bedside – speak to your nurse for more information.

Your visitors will also be asked to wear an apron at the bedside and clean their hands using the alcohol gel when they enter and leave the unit.

If you have recently stayed in another hospital, please tell your nurse.

Visiting times

Visiting times are between 2pm and 8pm but it may be possible to visit outside these hours. Please speak to the nurse in charge to arrange that.

We ask that no more than two people visit you at a time. This is to make sure you get the rest that you need and that other patients are not disturbed.

Sometimes visitors may be asked to leave the unit early or when procedures are taking place.

Facilities

There are bedside units that have a mixture of free and paid-for services, including a telephone, radio and television. Headphones must be used as many patients are monitored and ventilated, and audible alarms would otherwise not be heard.

Personal items such as a CD player and photographs can be brought into the hospital, but we cannot accept responsibility if they are lost.

A fridge is available for you to use.

Please make sure food is labelled with your name and date for safety and hygiene reasons. Unlabeled food is disposed of regularly.

There is also a washing machine for patients' clothing. Please provide your own washing powder.

There is a day room at the back of the unit overlooking Houses of Parliament for you and your visitors to use. Please be respectful and keep this area clean.

Technical services

The unit has its own Technical Services Department. If you have any questions or concerns about your equipment, please call 020 7188 3440, Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm. There is also an answerphone and calls will be returned within 24 hours.

In an emergency, call the hospital switchboard on 020 7188 7188 and ask for the bleep desk. Ask for bleep 1572 and wait for a response.

Transport

If possible, please arrange for a family member to take you home. If you need transport for medical reasons, please speak to a member of staff on the unit. Parking at St Thomas' is very limited although there is free disabled parking available.

A drop-off and pick-up facility outside the back of the unit (embankment side) is available. You will need a parking permit which can be collected from the Lane Fox ward clerk. A disabled blue badge must also be on display in your car.

To reclaim your **travel expenses**, you will need proof that you are receiving benefits and a reimbursement form, signed by the nursing staff. Please ask your nurse for more information.

Accommodation

Rooms in Gassiot House or the Simon Hotel may be available for patients and relatives travelling long distances. Advance booking is needed – please speak to the nurse in charge/sister for more information.

Garden

The Lane Fox Respiratory Unit Patients' Association has provided a garden for patients and staff.

The Lane Fox Respiratory Unit Patients' Association

The Lane Fox Respiratory Unit Patients' Association (LFRUPA) has been working in partnership with the unit since 1974 and is committed to improving quality of life for patients and their families. It has raised over £2 million and has supported the unit with specialised equipment, convalescent care for patients and research projects.

LFRUPA continues to raise funds to improve the support we can provide.

If you would like more information about LFRUPA, or you would like to become a member or make a donation, please contact us at:

Lane Fox Respiratory Unit Patients' Association, Lane Fox Unit,
Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7EH

t: 020 7188 7651

e: Pat.terrell@gstt.nhs.uk

Contact us

For more information about the Lane Fox Unit and the services it provides, please call
t: 020 7188 3434

Language support services –

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch using the following contact details.

t: 020 7188 8815 f: 020 7188 5953

NHS 111 –

Offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day.

t: 111

NHS Choices –

Provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make choices about your health.

w: www.nhs.uk

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St Thomas' Hospital
Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7EH

Guy's Hospital
Great Maze Pond, London SE1 9RT

Switchboard: 020 7188 7188

www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk

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