The Vascular Unit

You should have received the leaflet, Welcome – information about your stay, which has useful information about your stay in hospital and the general services available. This sheet gives you information specific to the Vascular Unit. We hope your stay is as pleasant as possible.

What is the Vascular Unit?
The Vascular Unit at Guy’s and St Thomas’ offers the full range of procedures for up-to-date treatment of vascular disease (conditions affecting the circulation/blood vessels). The Vascular Unit has a national and international reputation for clinical excellence and innovation.

The Ultrasonic Angiology Department offers non-invasive diagnosis of vascular problems. Our Endovascular Suite provides minimally invasive endovascular (blood vessel) treatment, and our state-of-the-art Hybrid Theatre allows complex, combined open and keyhole procedures to be carried out at the same time.

The hospital has a large number of intensive care and high dependency beds, as well as a vascular monitored bay (V-Bay) on Luke Ward. These all provide excellent care after your procedure. The hospital receives patients from the South London region as well as a large number of tertiary referrals (more complicated cases from further away) on a 24-hour basis.

The Vascular Unit consists of two wards at the St Thomas’ site – Luke Ward, 10th Floor, East Wing and Sarah Swift Ward, 9th Floor, East Wing.

Vascular Unit philosophy
Both Luke Ward and Sarah Swift Ward are committed to providing the highest quality care for patients, relatives and carers. We want your stay to be as pleasant as possible. We treat our patients as individuals and we will work with you to plan your care. We will provide you with all the information you need to help you make the right decisions about your treatment. We encourage a healthy lifestyle, and we continually improve the way we work based on the most up-to-date research.

Information about the wards

Luke Ward
Luke Ward is a vascular surgical ward with 16 beds. It has bays with four beds and bays with two beds, as well as two one-bed rooms. The bays are single sex to maintain privacy and dignity for all patients.

The Vascular Acute Care Bay (V-Bay) is mixed sex as this area provides intensive nursing care for complex patients after their procedures. V-Bay provides stable vascular patients with a short period (24 to 48 hours) of concentrated surgical nursing and medical care.

Luke Ward has 23 nursing staff which includes one ward sister and four deputy ward sisters/charge nurses. We are a very friendly team who will strive to ensure we meet your individual needs.
Sarah Swift Ward
Sarah Swift Ward is a vascular surgical ward with 33 beds. It has bays with four beds, a two-bed bay, and three side rooms. All the bays are single sex to maintain privacy and dignity for all patients.

Sarah Swift Ward has 34 nursing staff which includes one ward sister and three deputy ward sisters. We are a very friendly team who will strive to ensure we meet your individual needs.

The information below applies to both Luke Ward and Sarah Swift Ward:

Visiting times are between 2-8pm, seven days a week.

Ward rounds generally start at 8.30am. Use the space in your welcome pack to write any questions you may have.

Meal times
Breakfast – 8am
Lunch – 12 noon
Dinner – 5.30pm

Hot drinks are available at all times from the tea trolley, which is in the kitchen. 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, please ask a member of staff to make one for you.

Flowers are not allowed due to the risk of infection and limited bedside space.

There is a small day room for you and your visitors to use. Please be respectful and keep this area clean.

Meet the vascular team
When you visit the Vascular Unit you will be cared for by a variety of staff. We have fourteen vascular consultants, one vascular advanced nurse practitioner and twelve vascular specialist nurses.

Outpatient services
We run vascular outpatient clinics both at the Guy’s site (Wednesday mornings only) and the St Thomas’ site (daily).

The Trust also serves as the Vascular Arterial Centre for South East London and Kent, and therefore we also run outpatient clinics at our network hospitals:

- King’s College Hospital
- Lewisham Hospital
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich
- Queen Mary Hospital, Sidcup
- Darent Valley Hospital, Dartford
- Pembury Hospital, Tunbridge Wells

Where possible we will try to see you as an outpatient at your local hospital, unless otherwise discussed.
Useful sources of information

Contact us
If you have any questions or concerns before or after you have left hospital, please contact the Vascular Specialist Nurses, t: 07825 503 902 (Monday to Friday, 8am–4pm).

Cardiovascular Directorate Head of Nursing, t: 020 7188 1084
Vascular Matron, t: 020 7188 7188 Ext 54090 Bleep 2536
Vascular Advanced Nurse Practitioner, t: 020 7188 7188 Ext 58938 Bleep 1989

You can also contact Luke Ward or Sarah Swift Ward (24 hours) and speak to the Ward Sister or Nurse in Charge:

Luke Ward
t: 020 7188 3567 / 020 7188 8864
Ward Sister, t: 020 7188 3566

Sarah Swift Ward
t: 020 7188 2262 / 020 7185 9008 / 020 7185 1640 / 020 7620 1507
Ward Sister, t: 020 7185 3319

The above contacts can put you in touch with a vascular consultant if needed.

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit w: www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets

Pharmacy Medicines Helpline
If you have any questions or concerns about your medicines, please speak to the staff caring for you or call our helpline.
t: 020 7188 8748, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Your comments and concerns
For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). To make a complaint, contact the complaints department.
t: 020 7188 8801 (PALS)  e: pals@gstt.nhs.uk
t: 020 7188 3514 (complaints)  e: complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk

Language and accessible support services
If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch.
t: 020 7188 8815  e: languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk

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  w: 111.nhs.uk
NHS website
Online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you take control of your health and wellbeing.

w: www.nhs.uk

Get involved and have your say: become a member of the Trust
Members of Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust contribute to the organisation on a voluntary basis. We count on them for feedback, local knowledge and support. Membership is free and it is up to you how much you get involved. To find out more, please get in touch.
t: 0800 731 0319  e: members@gstt.nhs.uk  w: www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/membership

Was this leaflet useful?
We want to make sure the information you receive is helpful to you. If you have any comments about this leaflet, we would be happy to hear from you, fill in our simple online form, w: www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets, or e: patientinformationteam@gstt.nhs.uk