

## Visiting on B12 Intensive Care during the COVID-19 pandemic

In the current situation, we have had to restrict visiting within the hospital, including to patients on our Intensive Care Unit. We will always do our very best to allow a visit, but in line with national guidance, we have introduced some strict rules to protect patients, visitors and staff. Unfortunately, there will be some situations where a particular visit cannot be safely allowed. All visits must be undertaken in a careful, COVID-secure way.

### Before your visit

- Please phone the ICU nurse in charge to discuss the visiting rules:
  - **B12:** 01225 824964
- We can only allow one visitor per patient (next of kin or other designated family member)
- This must be the same visitor throughout the patient's stay
- Visits must be pre-booked, on the phone numbers above
- A second visitor can be allowed in end-of-life situations, where social distancing from other visitors and staff can be safely maintained
- In addition, a visit from a religious or spiritual leader can also be arranged
- Visitor must be:
  - in good health: no signs of COVID-19 or other infection (currently or within past 14 days): including no fever, cough, myalgia or other symptom
  - not currently self-isolating at home, due to a household member with symptoms in the last 14 days
  - not 'shielding' at home, on the advice of their doctor
  - we strongly recommend that all visitors have been fully COVID vaccinated
- The following points need to be explained to and agreed by the visitor:
  - bring the absolute minimum of personal items into the hospital
  - agree the time and location to attend the RUH (B12)
  - all visitors must wear a face mask throughout their time in the hospital
  - they will be wearing appropriate PPE as directed by the nursing staff, throughout their visit
  - PPE reduces but does NOT eliminate the risk to them of infection, including from COVID
  - they will need to follow all instructions on handwashing and PPE use at all times
  - the length of the visit will be determined by the nurse in charge
  - there may be other patients in the same room & their privacy must be respected
  - they may be asked to leave the room at any point, for clinical or other reasons
  - there is no need to self-isolate after a visit
  - a virtual visit (video call) may be an alternative to a face to face visit

### **On arrival**

- Visitor is met by one of the ICU team at entrance to B12
- Taken into visitor waiting room, for welcome & introductions
- Please be aware that there may be a considerable wait in the waiting room and that precise appointment times cannot always be ensured. We are grateful for your patience.
- Points to be discussed:
  - **Confirmation of all points made in 'Before your visit' box above**
  - Medical team will provide update on their relative's condition
  - Basic process of hand hygiene, PPE and rules within the unit
  - Understand that they may be asked to leave at any point, by the nurse or doctor in charge
- Any questions before going onto the Unit?

### **Your visit to B12 Intensive Care Unit**

- One of our nurses will help visitor to don appropriate PPE
- Nurse will take visitor to patient's bedside
- Nurse remains with /near visitor to ensure wellbeing and adherence to infection control rules
- At the end of the visit, PPE is removed, supervised closely by nursing staff
- Escort to waiting room
- Any questions or information needed?
- Visitor must leave the hospital directly after exiting ICU