

© Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Trust

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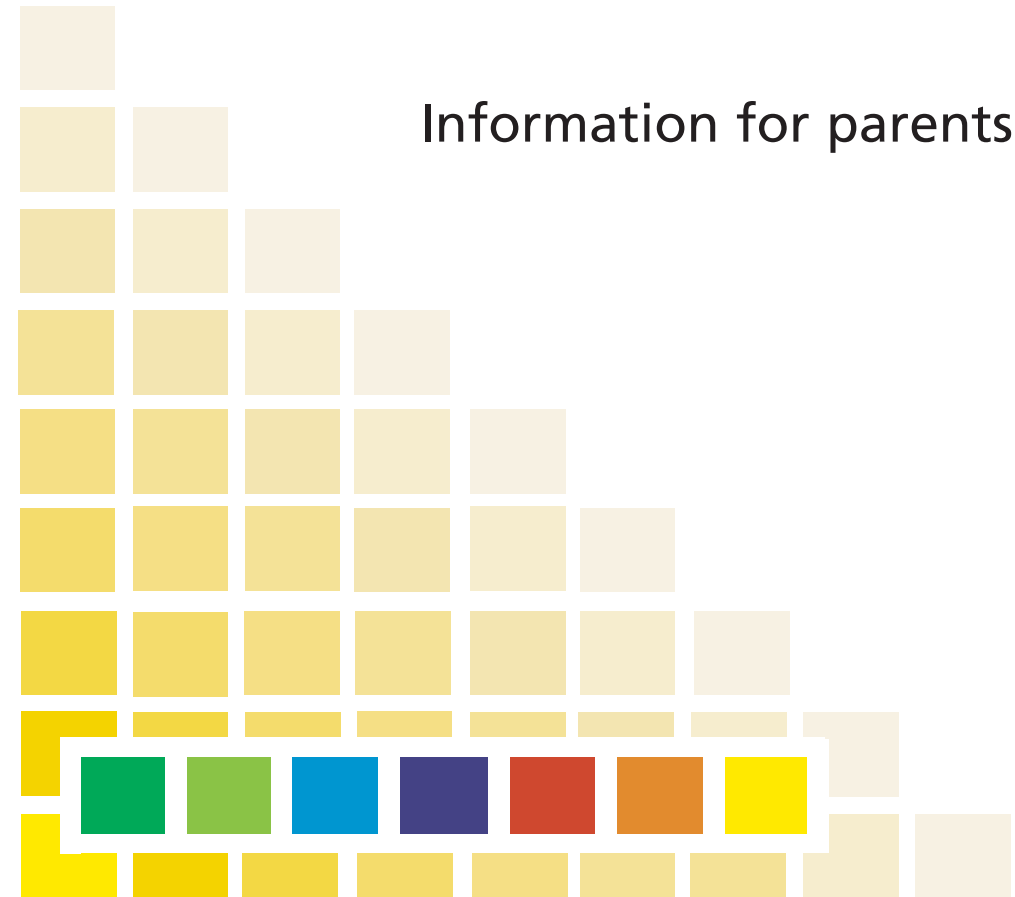
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June 2005

The Amanda Jones Paediatric Intensive Care Unit

Information for parents



Telephones

Please switch off all mobile phones whilst in the Unit as they may interfere with medical equipment.

Payphones are situated on level two (ground floor) Sydney Wing, near the coffee shop and can also be found just outside the hospital, beside the car park.

Parking

Very limited car parking is available at the front of Sydney Wing (Sydney Street) and is free for parents. Please explain to the car park attendant that your child is being treated in the hospital.

Useful contacts

If you have any questions about the information in this booklet or would like to speak to a member of staff, please telephone the PICU on: 020 7352 8121 ext 2400, or direct line 020 7351 8590.

Your child's needs

Although your child may need support from medical equipment, it is still possible for you to help with some of his/her care if you wish. Parents often like to sit with their children to read or talk to them.

Your child may need a ventilator - this is a machine to help with breathing. This means that a small tube in the nose or mouth goes into the windpipe and is then connected to the ventilator. This will stay in place until your child is able to breathe without help.

There will also be other pieces of equipment which will help us to care for your child and a nurse will be happy to explain what they are all for.

Children sleep for much of the time whilst in the PICU because of the medicines they need to help them settle and to make sure that they do not feel any pain.

Please feel free to bring in any of your child's favourite toys to the PICU. These can help children to settle on the Unit and to make the surroundings more familiar. Unfortunately we cannot take responsibility for personal possessions and we recommend that any valuable items are left at home.

Visiting

You may visit at any time and we ask that you are present when other visitors arrive to see your child. Please try to limit the number of visitors to a maximum of two at any one time (please check with your nurse if you wish any more to be present).

Your other children are welcome to visit but an adult should supervise them. Anyone who has an infection or thinks they may have an infection, should not visit the Unit. If in doubt, please speak to the nurse looking after your child.

Research

Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Trust is a leading centre for heart and lung disease. This means that we are committed to research and development in these areas to find new ways of treating these illnesses. Although projects looking at new ways of treating children are done in the hospital, your child will not be involved in any research without your permission. You do not have to agree with your child being included in a research study and our care of your child will not be influenced by your decision in any way.

Accommodation

Rooms are available for parents on level six in Sydney Wing and in South Parade, a five minute walk away. Accommodation can be arranged through the accommodation officer who can be contacted on telephone number: 020 7351 8044.

Breast feeding

If your baby is admitted to the Unit, feeding is still important even though he/she may not be able to breast or bottle feed. Your breast milk can be expressed, frozen and stored so that it is ready to be used whenever your baby needs it. An electric pump is also available if you would like to use it.

Midwives

If you need to see a midwife, please ask a member of staff. We will then arrange for one of the community midwives from Chelsea and Westminster hospital to visit you.

Religious services

Our chapel on level two (ground floor) Sydney Wing is always open. Religious leaders of different faiths are available for you to talk to. If you would like to see one of them please ask a nurse.

Refreshments

A drinking water fountain is available on the Unit.

There is a coffee shop on level two (ground floor) Sydney Wing, open between 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on weekdays and a dining room which can be found on level one (basement), which is open as follows:

Breakfast	7:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Lunch	12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.
Dinner	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

There is also a hospital shop in the main foyer.