

**Patient
Information**

Welcome to Cardiology Wards 1 & 2 at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital

Introduction

Cardiology Ward 1 has 22 beds. There are 3 x 4 bedded bays, 5 single side rooms and 2 x 4 bedded monitored bays.

Cardiology Ward 2 has 21 beds. There are 2 x 4 bedded monitored bays, 7 single side rooms and a 6 bedded bay.

During your stay on the ward, you may be moved from the monitored bays to one of our side rooms to enable safe and effective nursing care or into the bays

However, on the very rare occasion when the hospital is full to capacity there is a chance that we will make a clinical decision to move a patient into the corridor. We try to avoid this if we can and it will only happen when needed to facilitate care for patients. This is called the boarding policy.

What to bring in to the ward

Relatives are encouraged to bring in your own clothes, slippers with backs (not mules), wash items and any other home comforts you might like while in hospital. However, we do stock basic wash items and can also provide you with a towel so please ask if you need anything.

Medications

Please ask your family to bring in any of your own medication, including inhalers and eyedrops, we will need to lock them in your bedside locker.

Any medication not used will be returned to you when you are discharged.

Reference No.

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Department

Cardiology

Review due

March 2028

**Patient
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You will find **Cardiology Ward 1** on the:

Ground floor

Trauma Unit

Tel: 0300 422 8405

You will find the **Cardiology Ward 2** on: Level 1

Trauma Unit

Tel: 0300 422 4011

This ward was formally known as the Acute Medical Unit 2 and the signage currently remains the same. Please follow the signs for the Acute Medical Unit 2 and you will come to Cardiology Ward 2.

Ward routine

The day to day running of the ward includes regular observations and medication rounds. The times of these are as follows:

Observations: 6:00am, 10:00am, 2:00pm, 6:00pm, 10:00 pm

Medications: 8:00am, 12:00 noon, 6:00pm, 10:00pm

Meal times

Breakfast 8:00am

Lunch 1:00pm

Supper 5:00pm

Hot drinks are served regularly throughout the day.

Doctor's round

You will be seen by a doctor daily, Monday to Friday, this may not be the consultant. At the weekend you may not see a doctor unless you have a clinical need.

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Recognising staff

To help you recognise the role of each member of staff, the uniform colours are:

Navy blue – Sister

Bright blue – Staff Nurse

Green – Health Care Assistant

Pale blue – Student Nurse

Teal – Trainee Nursing Associate

Purple stripe – Domestic staff

Burgundy – Phlebotomist (person who takes blood samples)

Consultants

On the wards we have a named consultant each week, with a change over every Saturday. This means that if you are admitted on a Friday and stay until Monday you will see 2 different consultants.

Angiograms

Please be aware that most of the patients on the wards are waiting to have an angiogram. The nursing staff receive a list each evening (Monday to Friday) with the names of the patients who will be having an angiogram the following day. As soon as we are aware, we will let you know if your name is on the list for the following day.

However, we also run an emergency service for acutely ill people needing cardiac care. If we accept an emergency admission, the angiogram list will be stopped to prioritise the emergency patient's care. This means that patients listed for an angiogram on that day may have the test cancelled. We understand that this is frustrating but hope that you will understand.

After your angiogram, you will have a trans-radial band (TR band) on your wrist, this is to prevent your wrist from bleeding. While you have the TR band on, we ask that you do not leave the ward as we need to monitor your wrist closely for bleeding while we deflate the balloon that holds the band in place.

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Pacemakers

Patients may also be waiting for pacemakers to be inserted while on the cardiac ward. As with the angiograms, we receive notification, Monday to Friday, of the patients who are listed for pacing each day. We will let you know as soon as you are listed for the following day.

If you are waiting for a pacemaker you will need to have 'clearance therapy'. This consists of an anti-bacterial wash and cream which will be supplied by the nursing staff for you to use while on the ward.

Mobile cardiac monitors

During your stay you may be wearing a mobile cardiac monitor. If necessary, this will have been fitted when you were admitted to the ward.

There are some restrictions in place while you are wearing the monitor. **You cannot leave the ward to go outside** as the telemetry signal will not reach that far. Please ask your nurse if you have any questions.

Visiting

The wards are open for visiting every day between 11:00am and 8:00pm - only 2 visitors per bed space.

Additional information

There is WiFi available on the wards – if you struggle to connect your device, please ask a member of staff for help.

We have a cordless phone on the ward which you can use if you are unable to get a signal on your mobile phone and need to contact a relative. Please ask a member of staff.

Discharge

When you are fit for discharge, we will send you home with a 28 day supply of medications. You will be given a copy of your discharge summary. A copy of the summary will also be sent to your GP.

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When you are told that you are ready to be discharged, please do not ask your relatives to come to the ward to collect you straight away. We will need to make sure that you have all of your medication and paperwork. We will get this done as soon as we possibly can.

If you have driven yourself to hospital and then have to stay, please let the staff know as soon as possible. We will make the parking office aware of your vehicle. Unfortunately, the hospital parking is run separately to the hospital and there is no reduction in the cost of parking if your car is left in the car park while you are an inpatient.

Content reviewed: March 2025

Making a choice

Shared Decision Making

If you are asked to make a choice, you may have lots of questions that you want to ask. You may also want to talk over your options with your family or friends. It can help to write a list of the questions you want answered and take it to your appointment.



Ask 3 Questions

To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions if you are asked to make a choice about your healthcare.

1. What are my options?
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?

These resources have been adapted with kind permission from the MAGIC Programme, supported by the Health Foundation.

* Ask 3 Questions is based on Shepherd HL, et al. Three questions that patients can ask to improve the quality of information physicians give about treatment options: A cross-over trial. Patient Education and Counselling, 2011;84: 379-85.