

Core brief

Daily update

(27 August 2021, 2.35pm)

Topics in this Core Brief:

- Revision to hospital visiting arrangements in 'nightingale' wards at Glasgow Royal Infirmary

Revision to hospital visiting arrangements in 'nightingale' wards at Glasgow Royal Infirmary from Friday 27 August at 8pm

In line with the national guidance on hospital visiting, risk assessments are in place for all our wards to ensure the ongoing safety of staff and patients. In the case of the nightingale wards at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, an Incident Management Team was convened earlier this week which has recommended the temporary move to essential visiting for these wards.

This is based on the particular challenges within the nightingale wards with open accommodation where separation of patients and their visitors is more difficult and social distancing and other mitigations against COVID are more difficult to observe. Glasgow Royal Infirmary has also experienced an increase in COVID-19 hospital admissions.

The revision to hospital visiting arrangements will commence in the nightingale wards from 8pm this evening. In addition, red pathway COVID Hubs and Contact Wards have been created to cohort and safely care for these patients. As standard the Infection Prevention and Control Team have reviewed the situation and visiting in these wards has also been restricted to 'essential visits only'.

The 'essential visiting arrangements' will be applied flexibly and compassionately and each patient's needs considered on their own merits. Carers, those providing essential care or emotional support, or spiritual care are not considered to be visitors and should continue to be permitted to attend a patient in hospital.

The arrangements within GRI will be kept under close review by the local IMT to ensure we optimise the safety of patients, families and staff.

No other wards in GRI are affected and no other sites are currently affected. This situation will be kept under close review and it is therefore vitally important for all clinical staff to communicate with patients and their families daily to advise to phone the ward in advance of visiting to seek guidance about visiting arrangements in the ward they intend to visit.

Essential visiting within the nightingale wards

The 'essential visiting criteria' relevant to these specific wards is set out below. However, it is important to note that these examples are intended to be illustrative rather than exhaustive.

- a person receiving end-of-life care, to enable them to spend meaningful time with those who matter to them in their final days, weeks or months
- to support someone with a mental health issue, or dementia, or a learning disability or autism, where not being present would cause the patient to be distressed

All patients and their family affected by these revisions to visiting should be offered daily **virtual visits** as a minimum to ensure they can see and talk to those people who matter most to them.

The successful '**Give and Go Service**' available earlier in the pandemic will again be available from Monday 30 August for family to drop-off essential personal items for patients and to pick up laundry etc. The service will operate Monday – Friday (further details to follow).

'**Essential visiting guidance documents**' for staff have been uploaded to the [Hospital Visiting Staff Pages](#).

Essential Visiting is already in place in the following wards:

Red Pathway COVID Hubs	Contact Wards
Ward 47a	Ward 6
Ward 52	Ward 11
Ward 48	Ward 15/28
	Ward 23
	Ward 30

In addition, from **Friday 27 August at 8pm** hospital visiting will be restricted to '**essential visits only**' in these specific acute wards on the Glasgow Royal Infirmary site.

Additional wards where hospital visiting will be limited to essential visits only.		
Ward 3	Ward 17/31	Ward 29
Ward 4	Ward 18	Ward 32
Ward 5	Ward 19	Ward 33
<u>Ward 7/16</u>	<u>Ward 20</u>	<u>Ward 35</u>
Ward 8	Ward 21	Ward 36
Ward 9	Ward 24	Ward 38
Ward 10	Ward 26	Ward 39
Ward 12	Ward 27	

Visiting in all hospitals and other areas of Glasgow Royal Infirmary and Princess Royal Maternity

Visiting in **all other hospitals and other areas of Glasgow Royal Infirmary** and Princess Royal Maternity are unaffected by this change and should continue to follow the guidance for remobilisation of visiting issued from the 9 August which advises:

- There is no longer a requirement for visitors to be 'named' or limited to the same two visitors per patient over the course of the stay. The maximum occupancy of a room or ward should be used to guide how many people visiting can be present at any one time.
- Conversations with the patient and family should take place on admission and throughout the hospital stay to advise of visiting arrangements and expectations to embed this as part of routine care conversations.
- Inclusion of family support at times when patients wish the presence, help and support of the people who matter to them i.e., mealtimes, rehabilitation sessions, discharge planning and MDT conversations etc.