

Barrier nursing and isolation

Infection Control Team Patient Information Leaflet

What is barrier nursing and isolation?

Barrier nursing is one way of preventing the spread of infection from one person to another in hospital. It means that if you have an infection or are more prone to catch an infection, you may need to be nursed in a room on your own. It also means that nurses dealing with you will wear protective clothing.

If this happens, a notice will be placed on the door to inform staff and visitors that certain precautions must be taken. We understand that this may be difficult for you but the staff will do their best to make your stay in hospital as comfortable as possible. They will make sure that your bedside buzzer is within reach at all times for you to call for help.

What precautions will staff take?

Staff will wear protective clothing such as aprons and gloves when having physical contact with you. They have all been trained how to wash their hands correctly and what measures are necessary to prevent the spread of infections.

Any members of staff who are bringing your drugs, meals or drinks do not need to wear aprons or gloves. However, they will either wash their hands or use the alcohol gel when they go out of your room.

What happens about my treatment?

Your treatment and investigations such as X-rays will not be delayed if you are in isolation. The staff in these departments will take precautions to allow your treatment to go ahead safely.

Can I have visitors?

Yes. Your friends and relatives can visit as normal but should speak to the nurse in charge for further advice. Your visitors do **not** need to wear aprons, gloves or masks unless instructed to do so by the staff.

However, they should:

- cover any cuts or wounds before they enter your room
- not sit on your bed
- take extra care to wash their hands when leaving your room and
- use the gel either outside the room or at the entrance to the ward

You are only allowed to have up to two visitors at a time.

In general, we advise you not to have babies to visit you, or visitors who are unwell themselves, as they may be at risk of picking up an infection more easily.

Can I leave my room?

We ask that you do not leave your room unless you are given permission to do so by the nursing staff. You will be asked to keep your door closed at all times. If this causes you any problems, a nurse will be happy to discuss this with you.

It may be possible for you to come back onto the main ward at a later stage once your infection is treated. This decision will be taken by the ward staff and will be discussed with you.

If you have any questions, or if there is anything you do not understand about this leaflet, please contact:

Infection Control Team on 01384 244174 (8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)

Russells Hall Hospital switchboard number: 01384 456111

This leaflet can be downloaded or printed from:

<http://dudleygroup.nhs.uk/about-us/quality/infection-control/patient-information-leaflets/>

If you have any feedback on this patient information leaflet, please email dgft.patient.information@nhs.net

This leaflet can be made available in large print, audio version and in other languages, please call 0800 073 0510.

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此宣传单可提供大字版本、音频版本和其它语言版本，请拨打电话：0800 073 0510。

Ulotka dostępna jest również w dużym druku, wersji audio lub w innym języku. W tym celu zadzwoń pod numer 0800 073 0510.

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Aceasta broșura poate fi pusă la dispoziție tipărită cu caractere mari, versiune audio sau în alte limbi, pentru acest lucru vă rugăm sunați la 0800 073 0510.

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