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Gynaecology
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Patient information

Gynaecology Ambulatory Care Unit (GACU)



Excellent patient care, together

What is the Gynaecology Ambulatory Care Unit?

The Gynaecology Ambulatory Care Unit (GACU) is for patients who may not need to stay in hospital overnight but do need further investigation, a surgical procedure or management of symptoms related to early pregnancy and gynaecology complaints.

Why have you been asked to attend?

You will be referred to the unit following a consultation in one of our wards or urgent care for further investigation or management of symptoms or an elective (planned) procedure.

When to attend and what to expect in the GACU

You will be informed by the nurse or doctor that you are being transferred to the GACU for further treatment. When you arrive in GACU you will be booked in by a nurse who will also perform any initial investigations that are needed.

If you require a surgical procedure, you will be admitted at the time or a suitable date arranged for admission. A preoperative assessment will be undertaken in preparation for surgery. You arrive at the unit at 7.30am when you will be prepared for theatre.

If you are aged 55 years or younger you will need to provide a urine sample to carry out a pregnancy test.

If you require management of symptoms or are undergoing a procedure (eg fluid rehydration for hyperemesis, TWOC or ultrasound guided biopsy), times for admission will be discussed on an individual basis.

Generally, you can expect to stay in the unit for approximately four to six hours but this depends on what investigations are needed and how quickly you recover from surgery. The time may be shorter or longer depending on your individual clinical needs.

You may need to be admitted for further investigations, if so, you will be transferred to Elizabeth ward or another suitable inpatient ward.

We suggest you bring your own clothes, nightclothes, toiletries, something to read and any belongings that may ease your recovery. Please bring in any medications you take such as inhalers, insulin, etc .

Fitness for discharge

You will be considered fit for discharge if you are able to:

- eat, drink and tolerate it
- manage your pain
- mobilise
- pass urine (100ml or more).

NB If you have had surgery, you will require a responsible person to take you home and stay with you for 24 hours. You should not drive or operate any heavy machinery for 48 hours.

Location: Women's and Children's building, Knutsford Suite on Level 2 via Elizabeth Ward. Please use the intercom for Elizabeth Ward to gain access.

Visiting Times

We have flexible visiting as the unit has individual rooms. Until you are ready to be discharged, your partner or the person who is picking you up may be allowed to stay with you or may be asked to wait in the Day Room in Elizabeth Ward. Please note there is no capacity to accommodate children or babies within the unit, we cannot take responsibility for anyone except the patient as their safety is always at the centre of our care. Please make alternative arrangements for childcare.

Mealtimes

There are no specific mealtimes in the GACU, however, we offer a range of sandwiches and hot drinks for patients.

Retail Outlets

- Peabody's – snacks, hot drinks - main reception, PMOK
- The Dining Room: restaurant opposite the main block past the entrance
- All Good Coffee: through The Dining Room.

Parking

Disabled badge holders can park free in designated disabled bays and in the visitor's car park with the blue badge clearly on display. See our website for further information on parking charges and concessions.

There are 30-minute drop-off bays in front of the Maternity Building.

How to contact us

Gynaecology Ambulatory Care Unit

[Watford General Hospital](#)

Vicarage Road

Watford

Hertfordshire WD18 0HB

Tel: 01923 436405 (ext: 8405)

Hospital switchboard: 01923 244366

PALS

If you need this leaflet in another **language, large print, Braille or audio version**, please call **01923 217198** or email westherts.pals@nhs.net.



Language



Large Print



Braille



Audio

Concerns, complaints or suggestions

If you are unhappy with your experience or would like to give feedback, please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). PALS is available to patients, relatives, carers and friends to raise concerns.

For more information, please scan the QR code or visit our [website](#).

Survey - Friends and Family Test

We welcome feedback about your care, this feedback is shared with all staff we can improve patients' experience. Click this [link](#) or use the QR code with your smartphone.



Department	Gynaecology Ambulatory Care Unit
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