

WELCOME TO OUR WARD



This ward is an orthopaedic ward. Our patients have problems with bones and joints. Sometimes patients come to us after a fall or accident. Others come in for planned treatment.

Many of our older patients have a broken hip after a fall. In these patients some were living with dementia before their fall and some will develop delirium because of the injury or the treatment. Delirium can be a very serious condition and can sometimes look like dementia but the effect is not usually long-lasting.

You have been given this leaflet because you are sharing a ward with people who have dementia or delirium or are visiting someone who is.

About patients with dementia and delirium

A hospital stay can be uncomfortable and unsettling for any patient but for patients with dementia or delirium and a serious injury, a hospital stay can be very frightening.

For patients with dementia or delirium everyday activities such as eating, drinking, taking medicines or going to the toilet in a new environment can feel strange. They may not always understand the care or treatment we offer and they may see or believe things that are not real. They may also be uncomfortable or in pain but unable to make us understand what they need. This can sometimes make them feel frustrated or upset and they may get angry.

Like many of our older patients, people with dementia or delirium can be incontinent. Incontinence is not usually difficult to manage in hospital but can be very difficult to manage in people with dementia or delirium. You may also notice some of our patients



behaving in ways you might not expect. For example, some may take off their clothes or constantly try to get out of bed, or even try to leave the ward.

We cannot provide one-to-one care for all our patients but you may see dementia-specialist healthcare assistants caring one-to-one for our most vulnerable patients. We also welcome carers to our ward. They often understand the needs of the person they care for very well. It can be difficult for our nurses and healthcare assistants to understand and manage the needs of patients with dementia or delirium. We will listen to the people who care for them and to the advice of our dementia specialists to help us to provide the most suitable care.

What this means for you

We want you to feel safe and comfortable in our care. We know many of you will recognise the difficulties that patients with dementia and delirium and the people that care for them face. At the same time we also understand that you may be feeling vulnerable and that sharing a ward with people with dementia or delirium may frighten or upset you.

If you are unsettled or frightened by anything you hear or see on the ward please talk to our staff or volunteers. They will be happy to discuss your concerns and to talk with you about hospital stays for people with dementia or delirium.

Whatever the reason for your stay, we will do our best to meet your needs, to make your stay as comfortable as possible, and to treat you and other patients with equal kindness and respect.

We thank you for your patience and understanding.