

We're moving! Changes to Squirrel Ward: information for families

Towards the end of 2017, a new building called the Premier Inn Clinical Building (PICB) is opening at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) – this will contain several new wards, one of which will be for our specialist neonatal and paediatric surgery patients and another for our urology surgery patients who currently stay on Squirrel Ward. This information sheet explains the changes that are planned and what to expect from the new ward.

Where is the Premier Inn Clinical Building?

The Premier Inn Clinical Building (PICB) is within the main hospital site, next to the Morgan Stanley Clinical Building (MSCB). It fills in the gap between the Variety Club Building (VCB) and the Octav Botnar Wing (OBW).

Why is Squirrel Ward moving?

As you know, Squirrel Ward is currently located in the Variety Club Building, which was opened in 1994 – nearly 25 years ago. Medicine has moved on a great deal over the years and we are finding that, even after refurbishment, the facilities on Squirrel Ward are not meeting our needs.

For instance, we do not currently have accessible toilets and bathrooms on Squirrel Ward, which can be problematic for some children and young people. There is also a lack of storage currently.

The new wards – Chameleon, Possum and Panther – will provide improved facilities and more beds, with the aim of making your child's stay more comfortable and improve working practice for our staff.

What will the new wards be like?

- Chameleon and Possum Wards will be on Level 5 of the new Premier Inn Clinical Building (PICB) and will have 22 beds in total.
- Panther Ward will be on level 6 of the new Premier Inn Clinical Building (PICB) and will have 24 beds.

There will be four high dependency beds on Chameleon Ward and four on Panther Ward – these are for children and young people needing close monitoring and nursing care, perhaps due to their condition or following an operation. As now, we prefer you not to sleep by your child while they are in high dependency, so we will continue to offer somewhere to stay for both parents, elsewhere in the hospital or nearby. When your child no longer needs intensive or high dependency care, they will be transferred to another bed within the ward where only one parent can stay by the bedside.





The majority of the beds on Chameleon, Possum and Panther will be in single rooms – these will mainly be used for children who either have an infection or need to be protected from infection. These will all have their own ensuite bathrooms and space for one parent to stay. There is one four-bed bay on Chameleon and three shared bays of four beds on Panther Ward – each bed space can closed off for privacy – each bay has its own accessible toilet.

Each bed space will have our system for TV and films, which you can also use to access the internet, as well as Wi-Fi so you can connect your own device. You will also have some control of the lighting and heating within the room. Each room has a window onto the outdoors, so you can keep an eye on the weather and what else is going on at GOSH.

Chameleon and Possum Wards have a play room as does Panther Ward (shared with Bear Ward). These will continue to be supervised by our play specialist during office hours but you will be responsible for your child and their brothers and sisters at other times as you are now.

What will happen to the staff?

The same staff you see on Peter Pan and Squirrel Wards will be transferring over to Chameleon, Possum and Panther Wards. As there are more beds, you may see some new faces too – we have to have a certain number of nursing and support staff for each bed – these are on display on the ward. We will also be working differently. Each pair of rooms will have a desk area just outside, where the nurses and doctors can work while keeping a close eye on your child.

Other aspects of staying on the ward will carry on as before – we will be wearing the same uniforms and shift changes will happen at the same time. We will continue to have ‘huddles’ several times each day so that every member of ward staff has the same information about children and young people and their plan of care.

What about facilities for parents?

Each single room has space for one parent to stay on a sofa bed. Chameleon Ward has a sitting room (shared with Koala Ward) where you can go to relax and take time out from the ward. You will be able to make hot drinks and snacks – it will contain a fridge and microwave as before. There is also a quiet room (also shared with Koala) where you can talk in private with a member of staff. There is also a sitting room and quiet room on Panther Ward, shared with Bear Ward.

When will the move happen?

The new building has been handed over to GOSH now so the next step is to check that everything is present and correct while we fit out each ward according to the specific needs of children and young people who will be staying there. We are aiming to move in November 2017 but will give you a more precise date closer to the time. The move is likely to take place in stages, with non-essential medical equipment moving first and when the ward is ready to go, inpatients being moved to their new rooms.

What happens next?

The opening of the Premier Inn Clinical Building is only the start!

We are also building the Zayed Centre for Research into Rare Disease in Children (ZCR) on Guilford Street at the end of Lambs Conduit Street. This is where scientists and clinicians can work together to care for children and young people with rare diseases, learn more about what is making them unwell and discover new ways to help them get better.



The next stage is to build a new clinical building on Great Ormond Street to replace the Frontage and Paul O’Gorman Buildings. We are currently working out which services should sit in the new building and what facilities they will need. If you would like to hear more about our plans, please email redvelopment.feedback@gosh.nhs.uk.

If you have any questions about Squirrel Ward moving, please contact the Admissions Coordinator – their name and contact details are on your admission letter.