

We're moving! Changes to Bear 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 high dependency patients who currently stay on Bear 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 are the high dependency beds on Bear Ward moving?

At the moment, there are eight high dependency beds on Bear Ward for children and young people who need close monitoring and nursing care, perhaps due to their condition or following an operation. While the standard of care on the high dependency area on Bear Ward is excellent, we think that moving these beds to the new ward – along with an increase in the number of intensive care beds – will make the journey after surgery smoother for you and your child.

For instance, the children requiring this level of care will now be cared for by the intensive care doctors as well as the cardiologists – they will do joint ward rounds.

The new ward – called Alligator Ward – 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 is happening with the other beds on Bear Ward?

The non-high dependency beds (and those used by our Berlin Heart patients) will be staying on Bear Ward. The bed spaces that were previously high-dependency will be converted to everyday care beds, increasing the overall number on Bear Ward.

What will Alligator Ward be like?

Alligator Ward will be on Level 4 of the new Premier Inn Clinical Building (PICB) across the corridor from Flamingo Ward, where our cardiac intensive care beds are located currently. The new ward will have 21 beds, 12 of which will be high dependency beds and nine which will be intensive care beds. Three rooms are 'isolation' rooms for children who either have an infection or need to be protected from infection.

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 Bear Ward where only one parent can stay by the bedside.

Alligator Ward also has a play room which will continue to be supervised by our play specialist during office hours but you will be responsible for your child and brothers and sisters at other times as you are now.

What will happen to the staff?

Some of the staff you see on Bear and Flamingo Wards will spend some time on Alligator Ward so you will see some familiar faces but 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. 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?

Facilities for parents are shared with Flamingo Ward. There is also a sitting room 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 Flamingo) where you can talk in private with a member of staff.

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 Spring 2018 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 the new ward.

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 Bear Ward HDU beds moving, please contact Carolyn Akyil (Project Manager) on extension 6373 or email carolyn.akyil@gosh.nhs.uk

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Compiled by the staff on Bear Ward and the Redevelopment team in collaboration with the Child and Family Information Group

