

We're moving! Changes to Rainforest Wards: information for families

Towards the end of 2017, a new building called the Premier Inn Clinical Building (PICB) opened at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH). As some wards have moved into the new building, it has given us to opportunity to move Rainforest Wards to a refurbished area which is better suited to their needs. This information sheet explains the changes that are planned and what to expect from the new ward.

Why are Rainforest Wards moving?

While the wards will remain in the Southwood Building, which was built in the 1930s, they will be moving to an area that has been refurbished in the past few years. The previous ward area was not meeting the needs of children and young people:

For instance, the cubicles in the old area are too small for long term admissions and also for children and young people with any additional needs. There are not enough toilets and wash facilities in the old area so they had to be shared, which provided little privacy.

The new area – which will still be called Rainforest Ward – will provide improved facilities, with the aim of making your child's stay more comfortable and improve working practice for our staff.

What will the new area be like?

Rainforest Wards will be moving to Level 8 of the Southwood Building. The new ward will have 16 beds. The beds in the new area will be in single rooms, all with their own en suite bathrooms and space for one parent to stay. Each room 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. There is also a play room with toys, games and crafts. The play room will continue to be supervised by our play specialist during office hours but you will be responsible for your child at other times as you are now.

What will happen to the staff?

The same staff you see currently will be transferring over to the new area. 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.

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. 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 where you can talk in private with a member of staff. .

When will the move happen?

We are aiming to move in January 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 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 Rainforest Wards moving, please contact the Admissions Coordinator – their name and contact details are on your admission letter.