

Social Problems

Refer all problem cases to the medical Social Worker attached to the department during office hours. If outside office hours the Social Services have on-call arrangements and often the GP or his/her reception will give useful information.

The Rapid Response Assessment Team

We are fortunate to have a Rapid Response Assessment Team in the department who will assess the degree of mobility and other aspects of safety of the elderly patient before they are to be returned home. Details of this team are available (appendix 5).

Children –

- Children aged 13 and under should not be admitted to any main site ward, including ward 1, even for a brief period of observation. All such patients should go to the Clarendon Wing under the Paediatric Consultant of the day. From their 14th birthday they are considered suitable for adult wards, exceptions would be immature 14 year olds or older children with chronic conditions who are well known to the Paediatrician.
- Paediatric surgical problems are admitted under Paediatric Surgeons. If there are any concerns regarding their circumstances and events, in case of injury to children they may be referred to the Paediatric Registrar or if the concerns are mild in nature they should be brought to the attention of the Health Visitor.

Breaking Bad News –

This obviously requires practice and skill. Make sure that you have a nurse with you, the nurse will normally take the initiative in identifying the relatives correctly, usually in the interview room. Rehearse the form of words you will use and take advice about this if necessary. It is essential to go in with a senior if you are uncertain about your abilities. The senior nursing staff are very experienced in this area. Make sure the relatives has the chance to ask all the questions he/she need to at the time. It is often helpful to bring reassurance that their relative did not suffer in any way.

This is a very difficult thing to do well, but it is important to get it right.

If a child dies in the Accident & Emergency Department please contact the Liaison Health Visitor as soon as possible. She will either arrange support for the family by community staff or she will visit the family herself. Make sure that such a death is reported immediately to the Coroner.