

MIDLAND REGIONAL HOSPITAL TULLAMORE

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS





Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore Arden Road, Tullamore, Co Offaly, R35NY51 Phone 057 9321501



Welcome to the Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore.

We know that being admitted to hospital can be a difficult and worrying time for you and your loved ones. This booklet aims to give you information that will help you during your stay. We hope that your stay with us will be as comfortable as possible. If you have any concern or worry about your care or treatment please talk to a member of staff.

The Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore fully appreciates the importance of a patient having a visit from their loved ones and the vital part a visit plays in their recovery.

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HOSPITAL FACILITIES

Shop

The hospital shop is located on the ground floor on the main corridor, to the right of the main lifts.

Opening times:

Monday to Thursday: 09:00am to 17:00pm

Friday: 09:00am to 16:30pmSaturday: 09:00am to 15:30pmSunday: 11:30am to 15:30pm

Security

Security is based at the main foyer at the right - hand side as you enter the hospital and, in the Emergency Department - waiting area. Security is maintained by Routine Patrols, Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) surveillance, Access Control Technology (ACT) surveillance, Patient Wandering System (PWS) surveillance and manned guarding.

Vending Machines

Located across from the main shop, beside Out Patients Department reception and in the waiting room in the emergency department.

Hospital Chaplains and Mass

A chaplaincy service is available to all patients. Please inform a member of staff which denomination you require. The Hosptial Chapel is located down the link corridor between the new and old hospital. Communion is provided during mass time or on request – please speak with your nurse.

Mass time: Sunday - 09:00am.

Car Parking

Public car park is located at the front of the hospital. There is a charge for the use of these facilities. Pay stations are located as you enter in the hospital on the left hand side of reception.

Free	First 20 minutes
€2	Up to 2 hours
€3	2-3 hours
€4	3-6 hours
€5	Full day
€10	Max charge

Tobacco Free Campus

There is no place to smoke or use e-cigarettes or vape while you are on our hospital campus.

The Midlands Regional Hospital Tullamore is proud to be a smoke free campus since 2013. Our hospital campus includes all hospital buildings, any of our outside areas, our carparks or within any vehicles parked in those campus.



Our smoke free campus policy in MRHT provides an environment that promotes health and supports those who wish to stop smoking.

What our smoke free campus means for you

We ask you not to smoke, use e-cigarettes or vape anywhere on campus during your time in MRHT. If you are a smoker please speak to your nurse or doctor today about what support options are available to you while you are a patient in our care.

Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT)

MRHT can provide NRT to you while you are in the hospital to help you adhere to our smoke free campus policy.

Please speak to a nurse or your medical team if you require NRT during your stay. NRT are licensed medicines which give you a low level of nicotine.

These medicines do not contain the other poisonous chemicals present in tobacco smoke.

NRT is used to relieve cravings and withdrawal symptoms when you stop smoking. NRT can be given in the form of patches, lozenges, inhalers and mouth sprays. If you want to remain smoke free after you are discharged, staff can provide you with information on support services and/or make a referral to a smoking cessation officer for you.

NRT is currently FREE in Ireland to everyone who wishes to quit smoking cigarettes.

Exemption process

MRHT recognises that there may be exceptional circumstances which may prevent a patient from adhering to our smoke free campus policy.

Please speak to a nurse or your medical team if you want to discuss an exemption to the policy to be considered.

Exemptions to the policy will be supported in certain exceptional circumstances but support to QUIT smoking will be provided and supported as our first line treatment option.



GENERAL HOSPITAL INFORMATION

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

Within the hospital the prevention and control of infection is vital.

- Ensure you and your visitors perform hand hygiene when entering the hospital, at the bedside, after going to the toilet, before eating and when leaving the hospital.
- Use soap and water or alcohol hand sanitiser to clean your hands regularly. This can help stop the spread of bacteria and viruses that cause infections.
- Avoid touching your wounds, drips, drains or catheters.
- Relatives should not sit on your bed or use any patient toilet and washing facilities.
- We encourage you to stay within your own bed space.

- Any staff member wishing to examine you should clean their hands. Feel free to ask the staff member to do so.
- If you visit an isolation room please refer to the sign on the door for instructions.
- Any friend or relative who is unwell should not visit until they are 48 hours free of symptoms and feeling better.
- If you are unhappy with any hygiene/cleaning practices you see in hospital, please discuss this with staff at the time so that we can deal with it immediately.
- If you develop any symptoms of cold and flu please let a member of staff know.
- Facemasks are available on the ward for you to wear.

Fire Safety

The hospital has a fire alarm system and smoke detectors throughout the building. You need to check where the fire exits are on your ward. In the event of a fire, follow the instructions which will be given to you by the nurse in charge who will evacuate the ward if necessary and direct you to a safe place via the nearest emergency exit. If you discover or suspect a fire you should raise the alarm and inform a member of staff immediately.

Clinical Audit/Teaching Hospital

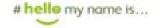
As the Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore is a teaching hospital, student doctors, nurses and other student health professionals may form part of the team taking care of you and may wish to talk to or examine you. Participation in this is voluntary. Audits may be completed as part of the hospital policy in order to improve standards and requirements within the hospital and overall improve your experience and stay.

Health and Safety

The hospital is committed to ensuring the safety of patients, visitors and staff. You must follow any instructions which are given to you by staff in the interest of your health and safety. Any person who breaches health and safety regulations may be asked to leave the hospital. Mutual respect must be maintained at all times.

Staff Identification

Staff at the Midlands Regional Hospital Tullamore wear an identity card with their photograph on it. Staff will introduce themselves to you. Your healthcare team may consist of staff members of different disciplines.



There is a zero tolerance approach to verbal or physical aggression towards staff or patients

SERVICES AVAILABLE IN THE HOSPITAL

Patient Advocacy and Liaison Service (PALS)

The PALS service is here to provide support and information to you, your family or carers.

If you have any concerns or queries about services in the hospital or your care, the PALS Co-ordinator may be able to assist. The service can be particularly useful if you feel frontline staff cannot help with your query or you would rather speak with someone who is not directly involved in your care.

This service is available Monday to Friday 8:30am-4:30pm.

Email: MRHT.PALS@hse.ie

Phone: 057 935 8117



Your Service Your Say

HSE Your Service Your Say is our process to listen and respond to your feedback about our services. Your feedback might be a comment, compliment or complaint.
Your feedback helps us to improve our services and provides safe and high quality care and treatment.

Email: MRHT.yoursay@hse.ie

Phone: 057 931 5836

Post: Consumer and Legal Affairs Manager, Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore, Tullamore, Co.Offaly.

Email or phone HSE directly:

- yoursay@hse.ie
- Freephone 1800 424 555
- +353 1 642 4555 from outside Ireland

Online: You can submit your complaint on https://www2.hse.ie/services/forms/your-service-your-say/





Freedom of Information (FOI) requests

The Consumer and Legal Affairs team also process requests for records under Freedom of Information legislation and General Data Protection Regulations.

To request your records under Freedom of Information or General Data Protection Regulation, email MRHT.Records@hse.ie with your contact information, a detailed description of the records you require, and a copy of your photographic ID (Passport or Drivers Licence under 3MB).

Interpretation Services

If you need an interpreter or signer please contact the nurse-in-charge who will arrange one for you.

The HSE has multilingual aids in numerous languages which can be used to aid communication between staff and patients.

These can be used prior to asking for the services of an interpreter or while waiting for an interpreter to arrive. They are available in the following languages:

Pashtu

Polish

Portuguese

Romanian

Russian

Spanish

 Ukrainian Urdu

Slovak

- Arabic
- Bosnian
- Chinese
- Czech
- French
- German
- Hungarian
- Irish
- Latvian
- Lithuanian

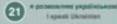
The Patient Charter

Copies of the Patient Charter are displayed throughout the hospital and also on the HSE website. It provides information on what your rights as a patient are.





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0	Full Sile I speak Contonues (Traditional Chinese)	Falo Partugués Espeak Portuguese
0	Mission Couly I speak Coult	Vortees: Romaina 1 aprel Romanier
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YOUR ADMISSION AND PROPERTY

Your Medicines while in Hospital

When you come to hospital we need to know all the medicines you usually take at home. This includes:

- Medicines prescribed by a doctor or nurse
 - tablets, inhalers, nebulisers, liquids, patches, eye drops, creams, and injections.
- Medicines you bought over-the-counter in a supermarket or pharmacy.
- · Herbal medicines and vitamin supplements.

A full list of your medicines will help us make sure we give you all the medicines you need while you are in hospital. Do not worry if you don't have a list of the medicines you take at home, we may need to contact your community pharmacy and/or doctor to check the medicines you usually take at home.

The "My Medicines List" leaflet is available on all wards for your convenience.

If you bring your medicines into hospital with you, a staff member will check the medicines you brought in with you and we can let you know whether they need to be returned home or not. If it is not possible to return your own medicines home, we will lock them away safely. Your medicines will be given back to you before you go home.

Using your own medicines

We may ask patients to supply medications like inhalers, eye-drops or high tech medications while in hospital. If a medicine is not usually stocked in the hospital then we may also ask permission to use your own while in hospital.

Please do not take your own medicines without liasing with us as a nurse or doctor MUST always give you your medicines while you are in hospital.

If you have any medication related queries, your clinical pharmacists is available to help- do not hesitate to ask.

Patient ID bands

For your personal safety, you will be asked to wear an identity bracelet during your stay at all times. If any of the information on it is incorrect, please let your Nurse know.

Allergies

It is really important to inform staff if you have an allergy (e.g. medicine, food or latex) especially if you have had a serious allergic reaction in the past.

Personal Belongings

Patients must retain and be responsible for dentures, glasses, hearing aids and contact lenses and their storage containers during their hospital stay.

Avoid bringing or keeping large sums of money with you while staying at the hopsital. Consider a trusted family, friend or arranging for lodgement to a financial institution eg post office or credit union.

Avoid leaving monies or valuable jewelry on display on bedside lockers. If you have cash or valuable jewellery with no safe keeping please inform the nurse in charge to ensure it is placed in a safe keeping area. Cashless options are available at the hospital shop.

All patients' belongings are brought in at their own risk. Do not share your belongings with another patient.

Make sure if you travelled by car that it is locked and secured in the car park with nothing valuable left on display. Speak to a member of staff if you need help with above.

If your visit is for longer then you thought, you can make or have a call made to your local Garda Station to let them know your home is vacant. Please provide an address including Eircode.

What to bring:

- Personal and Medical insurance
- information (see above)
- Dressing gown
- Nightware & Slippers
- Underwear
- Toiletries (toothbrush, comb, razor,towel, facecloth, etc)
- Long-term medication

What not to bring:

- Valuables
- Jewellery
- Too much clothing (you will have a locker & small wardrobe with limited space)
- Cash (except a small amount)
- Electrical equipment such as radios

Please ask your family to bring your incontinence wear/ products into hospital for your use. Our range of supplies may not suit your individual needs, and our aim is to protect your modesty and dignity at all times.

Electrical Devices

Patients and visitors must not bring electrical equipment into the hospital without the approval of the maintenance staff. The use of cellular phones and walkie-talkies can cause life support and diagnostic equipment to malfunction.

Please be mindful of your use of electronic devices and mobile phones in the Hospital.

To limit the disturbance to other patients:

- Please put your phones on silent, especially at night time.
- If you are listening to the radio/music or watching something on your electronic device, please use headphones.
- Please do not speak loudly on your phone outside other patient rooms or wards.

Safety Call Bell

The call bell system is for patients to ring when at their bed/bedside who require assistance. A member of the ward team will come to help you as soon as they can.



Patients leaving the ward

Please have a discussion with your nurse if you would like to leave the ward for any reason. If you are unwell, we may ask you to wait until you are feeling better. Delivering safe patient care is paramount while you are staying with us here in MRHT.

Ward rounds

You will be visited by a doctor daily. During ward rounds consultants will have a team of junior doctors with them. The consultant may not be present on each occasion but a member of their team will see you and if they have any concerns they will seek advice from your consultant.

Moving Beds

You may be asked to move to another bed during your stay in the hospital. Patients may be moved to facilitate a clinical need such as the isolation of patients with infectious diseases or to enable patients to receive specialised care when needed. Every effort will be made to avoid this, but if this situation occurs we would appreciate your co-operation.

Mixed Gender Wards

We aim to provide same-gender accommodation, so that you share sleeping bays, washing facilities and toilet facilities with members of your own gender only.

Patients may be placed in a mixed gender ward when direct patient observation is needed.



Additionally, due to the pressure on beds from the Emergency Department patients may be placed in a mixed gender room. If you are being offered a bed on a mixed gender ward for accommodation purposes you will be informed of this. You will be given a choice to refuse a mixed gender ward and wait for a same gender ward. Every effort is made by the Patient Flow team to transfer patients to a same gender ward as soon as possible.

Communication between the hospital and your family/friends

It is important that you designate **one** member of your family or a friend to make enquiries about you. Information or updates on your care will only be shared with this nominated person. They can then share this information with your wider family/friend circle with your permission.

Please note that it is not normal practice to give regular updates to this nominated person if you have the capacity to understand the information provided to you. However, if your condition changes, we will contact your nominated person.

Data Protection

MRHT is committed to protecting your right to privacy and confidentiality. We do this by protecting your personal information in accordance with the Data Protection Act. This means your information will only be accessed by staff who need it for your care and treatment. These staff members may include staff working in the hospital, your GP and staff who will provide treatment to you in the community setting.

Photos and Recordings

The taking of pictures, filming or recording in the Hospital by patients, friends and families is not allowed. This is to protect the privacy of all patients and staff.

End of Life Symbol



If you see this symbol on your ward please be aware of its importance.

The end of life symbol is displayed when a patient is dying or has died on the ward.

The symbol lets staff and visitors know that an intensely personal moment is happening within the ward and alerts us to show **dignity** and **respect**. The symbol is inspired by ancient Irish history and is not associated with any one religion or denomination.



MEALS AND MEALTIMES

Protected Meal Times

Good nutrition is an important part of your treatment and recovery. Patients are served three meals a day (breakfast, lunch and supper). Each day, a member of staff will take your order at the bedside.

Protected Meal Times are periods of time when patients are allowed to eat their meals without interruption.

Breakfast: 08.00 - 08.45 hrs
Dinner:13.00 - 13.45 hrs
Tea-time:17.00 - 17.45 hrs

If you require the assistance of a relative or friend to assist you at meal times, please discuss this with the nurse in charge.

Special Dietary Requirements

If you are on a special diet for health reasons or due to religious/ cultural beliefs, please tell our staff. They will be happy to ensure that you receive appropriate meals.

If you have any medically diagnosed food allergy or intolerance, please inform staff.

Snacks

In-between meal snacks are available at 11.30 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. If a patient wishes to receive any snacks outside of these times, please notify your nurse or healthcare assistant.

If you have missed a meal, please ask a member of staff for a replacement meal or snack to be ordered for you.



What are protected mealtimes?

"A period of time when patients are allowed to eat their meals without unnecessary interruptions and when nursing staff and the ward team are able to provide safe nutritional care"



VISITING THE HOSPITAL

Visiting Times and Compassionate Visits

Your family and friends are welcome to visit at the following times:

- 3pm to 4:30pm
- 6:30pm to 8pm
- * No more than 2 people to visit a patient at a time.
- * Compassionate visits may be allowed outside of normal visiting arrangements. These visits are coordinated by the Nurse-in-charge of the ward or Clinical Nurse Manager.
- * Visiting arrangements for the hospital are constantly under review. Visiting may be restricted at short notice in line with infection prevention and control advice.

For further information on visiting please ask for our Visitor's Information Leaflet.



Safeguarding

If you feel vulnerable or at risk of harm in any way or if you are worried about someone else who may be at risk, please speak to the nurse-incharge on your ward.

Disability Access

We want to make sure that everyone receives the same high standard of care and can access our hospital services. If you have any specific needs, please let your nurse know. You can inform them of what support you need.

However, if you need further support and advice contact:

Amy Mathews, Patient Advocacy and Liaison Services Co-ordinator

Email: MRHT.PALS@hse.ie

Assistance Dogs

Assistance dogs are specially trained dogs to assist a person with a specific impairment and has been qualified to do so by a registered organisation.

In the event of an assistance dog accompanying a patient/visitor within the hospital, please discuss same with the Nurse in charge of that area.



LOOKING AFTER YOURSELF IN HOSPITAL



Intravenous Peripheral Cannulas (Drip)

A peripheral cannula is also known as a drip or IV line. This allows the Health Care worker to give medication, fluids and blood products directly into your vein, as prescribed.

Looking after your Peripheral Intravenous Line (Drip).

- Handle the line carefully, do not pull.
- Do not remove the dressing.
- Expect that your drip will be checked every day by the staff caring for you to ensure there are no problems.
- · Remind those who touch your drip line to clean their hands first.
- Do not touch, disconnect or interfere with your drip line.
- · Keep your drip clean and dry.
- · Take care when dressing and showering.

If you notice any of the following, please inform a Nurse/Doctor/Care Assistant immediately.

- Redness, Swelling, Pain or Heat around your drip.
- Any soreness at the drip site.
- If the dressing becomes loose, moist, soiled or falls off.
- If the tube is still in, but has not been used in a day
- If you feel shivery or fell suddenly unwell.

Your cannula must be removed before you go home, unless it is part of your treatment plan.



Falls

It is important to note that you are in a new environment, and are at a high risk of having a fall while in hospital.

Tips on how to reduce your risk of having a fall:

- Drink water throughout the day (at least 2 jugs/2 litres of water) unless directed otherwise by your medical team.
- Have properly fitting slippers or comfortable shoes for your hospital stay,to reduce slipping and the risk of falls. Wear supportive footwear (no backless shoes/slippers).
- · Use your walking/mobility aids
- · Wear your glasses and hearing aids

#End PJ Paralysis

PJ paralysis is global movement to help patients get up, dressed and moving.



05

"Patient time is the most important currency in health and social care"
- Prof. Brian Dolan, OBE, RN



Up to 60% of older patients experience functional decline after hospitalistion (Hoogerdiun et. al 2012)



Deconditioning in hospitalised older people can cause serious harm



Let's get patients up, dressed & moving, enabling them to get home to their loved ones safer and sooner



If you had 1000 days left, how many would you want to spend in hospital? That's why every day matters



FACT: Reduces mobility FACT: Loss in strength

FACT: Loss of independence FACT: Longer stay in Hospital

HOSPITAL DISCHARGE

Preventing Blood Clots

While you are in hospital you are at an increased risk of developing a blood clot in your leg or lungs. This risk remains for 90 days after discharge. Please read the alert card below so you know the signs and how to reduce your risk.

For more information: www.thrombosis.ie

BLOOD CLOT ALERT CARD

WHAT IS A BLOOD CLOT?

This is the formation of a clot inside a blood vessel, usually in the leg, which may break off and go to the lungs. This can be fatal.







Blood clots can be very serious - but there are effective treatments to deal with them and help prevent them

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF A BLOOD CLOT

- Swelling or pain in one leg or arm
- Warmth or redness in the leg or arm
- Short of breath or rapid breathing
- Chest pain (particularly when breathing deeply)
- -> Coughing or coughing up blood

If you have one or more of these, you may have a clot and need urgent treatment



CSN: 20154240

You have a HIGHER

CHANCE of getting a

CHE IN HOSPITAL

AEROPLANE!



BLOOD CLOT ALERT CARD

Am I at risk?

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP MYSELF?

- → Ask for your risk of blood clots to be assessed, especially if you are in one of the higher risk groups listed opposite
- → Walk and move as much as possible
- -> Drink plenty of fluids
- If directed to use stockings or medication to prevent or treat a clot follow instructions exactly
- Remember, a blood clot in the veins is more likely up to 90 days after being in hospital.
- If you have any signs or symptoms of a clot, take immediate action to seek medical help

YOU MAY BE AT HIGHER RISK IF YOU.

- are admitted to hospital and for 90 days after you go home
- → have active cancer or receiving cancer treatment.
- are pregnant or have had a baby less than 6 weeks ago
- become immobile (more than 3 days in bed / travel non-stop more than 6 hours / in a leg cast)

RISK MAY INCREASE FURTHER IF:

- you or a close relative had a blood clot
- you had surgery in the last 90 days
- > you have thrombophilis (tendency to clot)
- you are on the oral contraceptive pil or HRT.
- you have heart, lung or inflammatory disease
- > you are over 60 years of age or are overweight
- you have varicose veins that become red and sore.

Planning for your Discharge from Hospital

Staying in hospital for longer than necessary can increase your risk of infection and reduce your independence, making your recovery period longer.

Your discharge planning begins when you are admitted to hospital and you will be given an expected date of discharge (EDD) which will be reviewed according to your needs and well-being.

Your Nurse will ask you questions about your home circumstances and any supports you may have. We will involve you and your family/carer (with your permission) as much as possible when planning your discharge.



If you require extra support going home, if necessary we will involve other members of the Multidisciplinary team including Medical Social Worker, Community Intervention Team, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist or Discharge Coordinator.

Where appropriate, the ward team will provide you with written information leaflets that will help you manage your recovery at home.

If you brought your own medicines to hospital, these will be returned to you before you leave the ward.

Please remember the following:

- When you are advised that you are going home, where possible you should
 make arrangements to be collected from the hospital before 11am. This is to
 ensure that beds are available early each day for patients who require
 admission.
- Finalise transport arrangements with family/ carers or friends.
- Make sure you have your prescription and ask your Doctor or Nurse to explain your medicines especially if there has been any changes made to same.
- · Ask for a Medical Certificate, if required, for your employer.
- Have suitable clothing and footwear for your discharge, this means weatherappropriate and comfortable clothing.
- Remove all belongings from your hospital bedside locker/ wardrobe and any valuables/ money that are in safe keeping.
- Have your house keys available if nobody is at home to let you in.

Discharge Prescription

If you need a prescription, it will be written for you before you are discharged. Bring this prescription to a pharmacy. It helps to go to your regular pharmacy as they will be familiar with your medicines. Prescriptions can also be emailed to your chosen pharmacy.



If you leave hospital later in the day, you might need to go to a 'late night' pharmacy near the hospital. If you have a medical card then you are entitled to receive a 7-day supply of your medicine from your pharmacy using the hospital prescription. This applies if you bring the prescription to the pharmacy on the same day as you are discharged.

Unfortunately, public hospitals in Ireland cannot supply medicines on discharge.

Before you are discharged, make sure you or your carer:

KNOW all of the medicines that have been prescribed for you - including any changes to your home medicines.

CHECK that you know the dose of each medicine and when to take it. **ASK** a staff member if you have any questions regarding your discharge medicines.

This medicines safety information was prepared with the assistance of Pharmacy Staff MRHT

DAY OF DISCHARGE

After you leave hospital

- When you leave the hospital, your GP will get a discharge summary about your treatment in hospital.
- If you become unwell or feel unable to manage at home, please contact your GP/Public Health Nurse.
- Follow up care may be necessary as advised by your hospital doctor, you will
 receive an appointment in the post.

Listening to our patients

We may contact you after your discharge to ask whether you would like to take part in a patient experience survey. We encourage all patients to give us their honest views and feedback so that we can learn and improve our services and level of care.

Healthcare Team						

