

## Planned relocation of haematology inpatient services

In the ongoing transformation efforts of University Hospitals Dorset, we are pleased to announce the relocation of the Poole inpatient haematology ward (Durlston), to Ward 7R at the Royal Bournemouth site, effective from the week commencing 29 April 2024. This strategic move is designed to centralise our haematology inpatient beds onto a single hospital site, thereby streamlining resources and fostering the development of a unified, highly skilled team. We anticipate significant benefits for our haematology patients, including the establishment of a sustainable specialist service, aimed at ensuring the delivery of optimal treatment outcomes.

We wish to reassure you that this relocation is not expected to impact your cancer care treatment, aside from the change in the location for inpatient admissions, which will now be facilitated at the Bournemouth site from the w/c 29 April 2024.

We appreciate this matter may raise some questions and hope these FAQs are helpful. If you have any further questions, please contact our patient experience team: [patientexperienceteam@uhd.nhs.uk](mailto:patientexperienceteam@uhd.nhs.uk)

\*\*\*\*\*

### FAQs

#### 1. Why is Durlston moving?

Following the Clinical Services Review (CSR) in 2017, Poole Hospital will become a planned care hospital and Royal Bournemouth Hospital will become an emergency hospital. In order for this to happen, the majority of the inpatient wards will be moving to Royal Bournemouth Hospital and the majority of planned admissions (e.g. surgery) will be moving to Poole Hospital. For further information please see our website <https://www.uhd.nhs.uk/about-us/future>

#### 2. Why is the move happening now?

Whilst most of the inpatient ward moves will not take place until toward the end of 2025, there are significant benefits to our patients in combining sooner to ensure effective use of resources and creating a sustainable specialist Haematology service for the future.

**3. Will I still be cared for during my stay by a haematologist?**

Yes, you will remain under the care of the haematology team during your stay.

**4. Will I still be admitted to Royal Bournemouth Hospital if I need an inpatient stay despite being seen in the OP clinic at Poole?**

Yes, regardless of where you usually see your haematologist for outpatient appointments, all inpatient admissions from the 29 April 2024 will be at Royal Bournemouth Hospital.

**5. What happens if I am admitted direct to Poole Hospital via an ambulance and need a Haematology inpatient admission?**

Whilst ideally we would have all patients admitted to the right site, there will inevitably be patients who are admitted to Poole Hospital and after review identified as needing a haematology inpatient admission. Whilst we will do our best to mitigate this by working with the local ambulance services and GPs to advise of the upcoming changes, there will be patients who it is not clear at the time of their admission they need a haematology admission. There will be pathways in place for to ensure suspected haematology patients are reviewed at Poole Hospital by a member of the haematology team and if an admission is required, transport will be arranged to transport the patient to Bournemouth Hospital.

**6. If I am admitted to Poole Hospital and identified as needing a haematology inpatient admission where will I wait whilst transport is arranged?**

Depending on the timeframe for transport, it is not uncommon for patients initially to wait in our Acute Medical Unit (short stay acute ward) until they can be transferred to Royal Bournemouth Hospital. In the very rare occasion, there is expected to be a delay to transport or no beds available at the Bournemouth site, patients may be transferred to another ward within the Poole site until the transfer can be arranged.

**7. I currently see my haematologist at Poole for outpatient clinics, will these move to Royal Bournemouth Hospital too?**

No, only the inpatient services are moving at present. There may be some moving of outpatient services in the future, but the expectation from the clinical services review is the majority of these will be done on the planned care site (Poole).

**8. Has there been any patient involvement in these changes?**

Yes, as part of the original clinical services review 18,500 responses were considered as part of the review.

**9. Will the staff on the ward have the same skills as the Durlston nurses?**

The ward will be staffed with existing Royal Bournemouth based haematology nurses currently based on Ward 11 and Durlston nurses. Any additional staff recruited will follow the usual process for inhouse assessment to ensure they are competent before they are no longer supernumerary.

**10. Will the haematology helpline be aware of this move?**

Yes, and any calls to the haematology helpline after 1 April 2024 who require assessment, will be asked to attend HODU at Bournemouth Hospital, rather than DCC at Poole Hospital to avoid transfer if an admission is needed.

**11. Has there been any communication with the wider community to inform them of the changes?**

Yes, communication has been shared with local GPs, ambulance service and widely communicated internally within University Hospitals Dorset.

April 2024