

COVID-19 Criteria for Admission Planned Investigations Unit (PIU)

Patient Information

Royal Albert Edward Infirmary

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Introduction

Please read the leaflet carefully and ensure that all instructions given are followed, both prior to and during your admission to the Planned Investigations Unit (PIU).

PIU has remained operational throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Changes have been made within the service to support the delivery of high-quality care to all patients, including those who are shielding or vulnerable.

In accordance with national guide lines:

- 2 metre social distancing and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) have been implemented. Fluid Resistant Surgical Masks (FRSM) are worn by all staff.
- Face masks must be worn by all patients and carers, whilst in the hospital; these will be available at each entry point into the hospital.

All non-essential PIU appointments have been stopped.

Only patients who must attend PIU for treatments are to be admitted to the unit.

Referral management/pre-admission telephone clinic

All patients are to be triage (completion of PIU COVID-19 triage questionnaire) via the telephone, prior to being given an appointment on PIU.

Patients identified as shielding or vulnerable (those deemed at a greater risk of severe illness with the COVID-19 virus) will be further separated (socially distanced) from non-shielding patients.

Staggered appointment times

Appointment times are staggered at each triage point/entrance by a minimum of five minutes to allow for the face to face triage process to take place.

This is essential to maintain social distancing measures and manage patient flow through the unit. Patients with the longest treatment times will be given the earliest appointments

Shielding Patients:

Shielding patients are to access PIU via the new alternative second entrance/exit situated to the rear of the unit.

PIU existing entrance and exit

Triage point one is accessed through RAEI main entrance (opposite the pharmacy building). This is the entrance and exit point to PIU for all non-shielding patients.

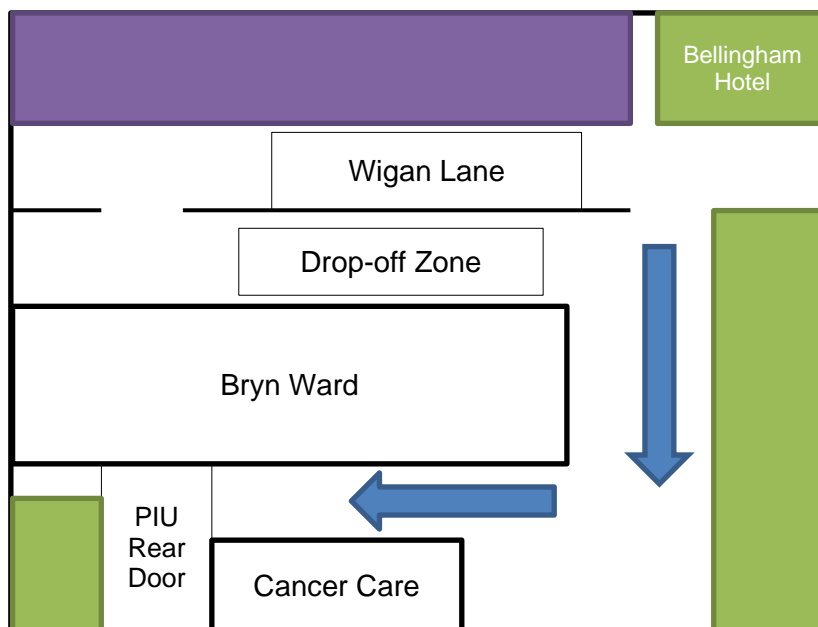
PIU alternative entrance/exit (previously the rear fire door)

Triage point two is accessed at the rear of Bryn Ward; signs are in place to follow:

- Turn right onto the short road at the rear of Bryn Ward (the new temporary building).
- Walk past the Cancer Care Unit (Christie at Wigan) to the end of the building.
- Turn left into the walkway to find the PIU alternative entrance/exit.
- Use the intercom to gain entry to PIU.

This entrance/exit point is only for patients who are shielding or vulnerable. No other patients or staff will be allowed access through this door.

All patients will be made aware at the time of booking which entrance/triage point to attend, and the time of their appointment.



What happens at the triage point?

At the triage point the COVID-19 questionnaire will again be completed, together with a temperature check.

Patients will be allowed access to the clinical/treatment area when all aspects of the COVID-19 questionnaire are successfully passed.

Additional measures

During your PIU admission: All patients will be required to observe social distancing, wear an appropriate face mask (PPE), use hand sanitizing gel before accessing the unit, during your stay in the unit and before leaving the unit.

The use of (PPE), complying with social distancing measures and the use of hand sanitizer gel is required, to protect both your personal safety and the safety of PIU staff and other patients.

WWL Trust requires that in addition to existing systems and processes which have been in place since March 2020. All patients referred to the unit for treatment and all patients who regularly attend the unit are required to have a COVID-19 swab prior to their appointment, or every 28 days for those who attend frequently.

Patients will only be admitted with a negative COVID-19 swab test result and a negative COVID-19 triage result.

Pre-admission COVID-19 swab tests

- New patient referrals: PIU can organise a swab for you via the WWL drive-thru sites (situated at either Leigh Infirmary or Wrightington Hospital). If you require an alternative way to have a swab completed please discuss this with PIU staff, when contact is made to organise your appointment/treatment.
- PIU exiting patients/regular attendees will be referred to the COVID-19 swab team.
- The COVID-19 swab test will be completed 72 hours in advance of planned appointment/admission date(s).
- A negative swab test result will remain valid for a period of 28 days, but only in conjunction with a negative COVID-19 triage questionnaire.

If at any point prior to your admission you develop symptoms of COVID-19 please inform PIU on 01942 822941 or email wwl-tr.piuwigan@nhs.net.

Patients are asked not to attend PIU if they have or develop signs of COVID-19 or if any family member is self-isolating due to COVID-19.

Signs of COVID-19 could include a high temperature, a new continuous cough, loss or change to your sense of smell or taste. Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms.

Visiting

Visitors and relatives are not currently allowed onto PIU. Only patient requiring essential treatments are allowed access. This is necessary to maintain social distancing and to reduce the number of people in PIU.

Only essential carers are allowed to drop patients off for treatments. Where a vulnerable adult requires a carer to be present, the carer will be required to wear PPE and will be required to sign a disclaimer. If possible, they should have also have had a COVID-19 swab completed.

Any carer dropping off or required to stay with a vulnerable patient will require the completion of the 13 question, questionnaire, and a temperature check at the time of arrival at PIU. Only where these have been successfully completed as negative for signs of COVID-19 will the carer be allowed to access the clinical area and treatment station with the patient.

Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends and carers.

Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary
Wigan Lane
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Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use and store the information we hold about you, please take a look at our “how we use your information” leaflet which can be found on the Trust website: wwl.nhs.uk

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille and other languages upon request. For more information please ask in the department/ward.

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