

What does observation mean to me?

Name:	
Key Nurse:	

Shining a light on the future



You have a right to be involved in decisions about your care and level of observation and can expect a copy of your care plan from your key nurse.

What is the aim and purpose of observation?

Aim

Observation is used by your care team to help us develop a good relationship to enable you to work towards recovery whilst maintaining your safety and well being.

Purpose

Observation helps us to become aware of any changes in how you feel and assess any risks to yourself or within the ward environment. Observation allows your care team to offer support so we can respond sensitively and rapidly to your needs.

Levels of Observation

Everybody on the ward is nursed on a level of observation; there are 4 levels of observation:

- General Observation
- Intermittent Observation
- Within Eyesight Observation
- Within Arms Length Observation

General Observation

This is the minimum level of observation which most patients can expect during their stay in hospital. The nursing staff are however required to know where you are all of the time therefore we ask that if you are allocated leave from the ward you let us know as you leave and return.

Intermittent Observation

This is an increased level of observation, used to ensure that nursing staff are regularly available for you to improve your wellbeing and help you to feel safe on the ward. Staff will approach you every 15-30minutes to see how they can

best support you. You will also be given the opportunity to discuss what you feel is helpful as part of your care-plan

You may be able to leave the ward but this needs to be agreed with the staff involved in your care.

Within Eyesight Observation

This is a higher level of observation to enable your care team to support you at all times. The nursing staff will not always be close to you, but they will be within “eyesight.” The care team will always discuss with you your individual needs around your privacy and dignity.

You may be allocated escorted leave from the ward and your key nurse will be able to discuss this with you.

Within Arms Length Observation

This is the highest level of observation we use to enable a member of the nursing staff to be close to you at all times to help you with your current needs. The care team will always discuss with you your individual needs especially related to privacy and dignity.

Any leave off the ward is usually only allocated in exceptional circumstances whilst you are being nursed on this level of observation. Your care team will explain why this is necessary.

Each day your care team will review your needs in relation to your observation level and you will be fully involved in these discussions to resolve any problems or difficulties you may face.

**This leaflet can be made available in a range of formats on request (eg Braille, audio, large print). Please contact Chris Rowlands
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