OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT LEARNING MENU

About the department.

The ROH Outpatient department (OPD) runs across 2 floors. The ground floor has 3 rooms with four pods in, with a two roomed area down the end of the corridor, by the exit to xray. The 1st floor has two rooms on the right hand side as you enter and one room on the left, then there is one room with four pods in and one room with three pods. In addition to this on the ground floor we have a reflection room which was put in place for somewhere that oncology patients could go to as and when required. On the second floor we have a consent room, an injection suite and an ultrasound suite which are used by the xray department. There are reception areas on both floors.

The building is relatively new and offers all patients privacy and dignity as each room has a fire door to it, so that patients get a private consultation. In the outpatient department we see on an average 1800 patients a week. Clinics take place in the morning, afternoon and there are also evening sessions. Morning sessions start at 0830 hrs and end approximately @ 1230 hrs, afternoon sessions start @ 1330hrs and end approximately @ 1700 hrs, evening sessions start @ 1700 hrs and end approximately @ 2000 hrs. Evening sessions take place on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Currently patients are to be seen within 18 weeks of the referral being received, unless they are oncology. Oncology work with a 2 week target due to the seriousness of the condition.

The variety of specialities within outpatients gives students the opportunity to see a wide range of Orthopaedic conditions, give an insight into oncological conditions, achieve learning objections and collect information. Due to the speed of transition which patients are seen you can also learn how the team communicate with each other and patients. It is important that the individual student shows interest in areas relevant to their placement and learning outcomes. Your time in outpatients is your own, use it wisely, ask questions, listen and make use of the learning methods and resources available.

Professionals you may see in outpatients

Consultant Surgeons
Registrars
Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANP)
Registered nurses
Health Care Assistants (HCA)
Orthotist
Reception staff
Medical record staff
Occupational Therapists
Physiotherapists
Events in outpatients

All clinics are observational with exception to the nurse led dressing clinic where you may be asked to remove sutures and partake in simple dressings, under the supervision of the nurse running the clinic. There are specific protocols that are in place and not all of the registered nurses are able to do these clinics.

Twice a week on a Wednesday and Thursday we have an Occupational Therapist whose speciality is in hands who reviews patients from the hand clinics. The majority of whom will be post-operative and require plastic splints to be made or physiotherapy. This is an interesting part of the patient’s journey; if you are working on a Wednesday or Thursday please take the opportunity to see a patient through the clinic into Occupational Therapy.

Patients who are put on the waiting list whilst in clinic will be required to complete a pre-operative questionnaire. The doctors in clinic inform the nurse who is running the clinic that the patient has been listed. Patients will also have some MRSA swabs taken, this is done in clinic to try to minimize the amount of patients who will need to go Pre Operative Assessment Clinic (POAC), therefore making the patients journey smoother. All patients who are coming into the trust for an operation or an injection are swabbed.

There is a plaster suite in OPD with 3 couches. The plaster technicians are not based in the department and can be contacted in theatres and they do carry a bleep. You are welcome to observe plasters being taken off and put on.

You may sit in with the doctor or ANP whilst in clinic this will help you get an insight into what happens in a patient’s consultation. Observation and listening skills are important when patients are having consultations and examinations.