

Student Placement information

Ward 6A, John Radcliffe Hospital

- Welcome to Ward 6A!
- Please contact us as soon as possible.

Key contacts

- Ward Sister: 01865 221806
- Nurses' Station: 01865 221804/2
- It is best to call between 10:00 and 11:30 or between 13:30 and 17:00 as the nurses are free around mealtimes / washes / medication times

The key nurses to ask for are:

- Ward Sister
- Clinical Practice Educator
- Associate Clinical Practice Educator
- Practice Development and Educational Lead

Information about 6a

- 6A is a vascular ward, which covers blood vessel problems. Primarily these problems occur peripherally in lower limbs; however, problems can happen anywhere.
- Patients with vascular problems usually have a lot of comorbidities, as circulation affects every organ.
- We care for patients undergoing complex surgeries including limb amputations, open abdominal surgeries and revascularisation.
- There are two teams of doctors on vascular. One is the surgical vascular doctors, from junior F1s to consultants; the second is the peri-operative team, which cares for the medical concerns that the patients have.

Key learning opportunities during the placement

- If you love wound care, you will love vascular nursing. There are a lot of wounds to take care of, from chronic non-healing leg ulcers, necrotic limbs, clean surgical wounds with the opportunity to practice removing stitches and staples, to limb amputation wounds. We also use negative pressure wound therapy (VAC) and larvae therapy in management of complex wounds.
- Vascular is a surgical ward, with the opportunity to prepare patients for theatre, and then to care for them post-operatively. You will have the opportunity to learn about the care required for each surgery, as the care needs will be different.
- You also can care for patients coming out of Intensive Care and coming back on to the ward.
- From a social perspective, many of our patients have complex social needs. This means working with social workers, occupation therapists and physiotherapists on a regular basis.
- All your student competencies will be achievable on Ward 6A.

Spoke Placement Opportunities

- We have a Triage Clinic, which is run by an Advanced Nurse Practitioner or by a Vascular Specialist Nurse. Triage is Monday to Friday, and patients may be seen for specific dressing changes as outpatients, or it may be pre-admission to the ward for elective or non-emergency non-elective surgery.
- Go to theatres for the day and see how vascular surgery is done.
- Go to the vascular lab and see patients have their scan that is required for treatment and diagnosis.
- Spend time with the occupational therapists and physiotherapists. Our physiotherapist on the ward is a vascular specialist as the patients' needs can be very specific.
- We work closely with the Tissue Viability Team and it will be possible to spend more time with the specialist nurses.
- The Podiatry Team comes to ward regularly to review our patients; you will have opportunities to spend time and learn from them.
- The Diabetes Specialist Nurses often come to the ward to review patients; we can arrange for you to spend more time with them to see the care that they provide.

Typical shift patterns, days department is open

As a ward, we run on a 24/7 basis.

- Long Day Shifts: 07:00-20:00
- Night Shifts: 19:30-19:30
- Early Shifts: 07:00-14:30
- Late Shifts: 13:30-20:00

Local education programmes

- We often have reps coming to the ward to provide teaching to staff.
- We have hands-on education team which will find learning opportunities as they arise and get you involved.

Useful reading for the placement

- Judge. N. (2007) Neurovascular assessment. *Nursing Standard*. 21, 45, 39-44
- Campbell N (2016) Electronic SSKIN pathway: reducing device-related pressure ulcers. *British Journal of Nursing*. 25 (15).