

Student Placement information

The Cardiac Medicine Directorate provides primary, secondary and tertiary services for Oxfordshire and beyond, performing diagnostic procedures and offering effective treatment options for an increasing number of patients with heart disease.

Advances in technology, pharmacology and procedural techniques have resulted in a trend towards increasingly complex procedures being performed on a wide range of patients, many with acute disease and high dependency.

Cardiology Ward, Oxford Heart Centre, John Radcliffe Hospital

Welcome to the Cardiology Ward, Level 0, Oxford Heart Centre.

Please contact the placement as soon as possible by telephone on **01865 572675** and ask to speak to your Practice Supervisor or Practice Assessor. If these are not available ask to speak to the ward co-ordinator.

Cardiology is a 41 bedded ward with 25 single rooms incorporating a 6 bedded Acute Cardiac Care Unit, six high dependency beds and 16 beds in the Rapid Assessment Unit.

We are a referral centre for interventional Cardiology. The Cardiology team receives admissions from the waiting list, from other areas of the hospital, from other hospitals, via the day care unit and occasionally from clinics. Our Acute Critical Care Unit provides direct admission of patients post Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PPCI) straight from the angiography suite after their Myocardial Infarction.

The type of patients nursed on the ward includes those who have / are:

- unstable coronary disease / angina
- valve disease and endocarditis
- cardiomyopathy
- undergoing PTCA/ stent implantation
- requiring permanent pacemaker insertions
- rhythm disturbances, undergoing electrophysiological studies, including catheter ablation
- life-threatening arrhythmias, in need of ICD implantation and subsequent management
- awaiting urgent or emergency cardiac surgery for valve or coronary disease.
- longer term management of heart failure
- adult congenital heart disease and pulmonary hypertension.

The Cardiology Ward operates team nursing, within a closely supported / clinical supervision structure.

Shift times are as follows:

Long days:

Day shift: 07:30-20:00

Night shift: 19:30-08:00

Learning opportunities during the placement

- Take an ECG and read the basics of an ECG including when and why they are done
- Learn about the various cardiac conditions.
- Learn the documentation and terminology used in Cardiology
- You may get the opportunity to observe a cardiac arrest
- Learn the ABCDE approach to patient assessment and observation
- Spend time with pharmacists to better your medicines management

Suggested spoke placements

- Visit the Angiography Suite to observe procedures.
- Attend clinics with specialist nurses for example Adult Congenital Heart Disease Specialist Nurses, Cardiac Rehab team, Heart Failure team, Arrhythmia Nurse Specialists, Genetic team, chest pain nurses and research team
- Visit theatres to observe cardiac surgery
- You may get the opportunity to spend a shift on the Cardiothoracic Ward to observe care of patients post heart surgery

Local education programmes

The Cardiology Ward has several local teaching sessions alternating weekly with case study presentations and topics of interest / discussion. Medical staff, pharmacy and specialist nurses are all available to provide bespoke sessions and these are scheduled at times to suit the ward. We also have a cardiac fundamentals programme which provides a general overview of all things cardiac for our qualified new starters. Students are welcome to attend these sessions if they coincide with their allocation to the unit.

Useful reading for the placement

We would encourage all students to revise their Anatomy and Physiology of the Heart before start of placement and be guided by information available in your student orientation booklet for areas of further reading. This is provided by the link lecturer before the start of your placement.

Useful websites include:

- ECG examples: www.ecglibrary.com
- Heart failure online: www.heartfailure.org
- National Service Framework for coronary heart disease: www.dh.gov.uk (Search: National service frameworks)
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence: www.nice.org.uk
- Cardiovascular diseases specialist library: www.library.nhs.uk/cardiovascular
- British Heart Foundation: www.bhf.org.uk
- Arrhythmia information: www.heartrhythmalliance.org/aa/uk
- National electronic library for health