Patients with Parkinson’s
Guide to being admitted to a hospital in Cornwall

Special treatments
Deep Brain Stimulation
Tell staff if you have had deep brain stimulation surgery. They will need to know for antibiotics, MRI scanning or diathermy purposes.

Remember to take your handheld device into hospital as your settings may need adjusting. Your patient ID card is also important as the staff can use the contact numbers for further advice.

Hospital staff should contact Lynne Osborne the Parkinson’s Nurse Consultant on 01209 318051 if you have any queries.

Apomorphine
Make sure you tell staff at your pre-admission visit if you use an Apomorphine pump. Bring the pump, and the instructions that came with it, into hospital to help the nurses administer it. The Apomorphine pump helpline can be contacted 24 hours a day for advice on 0844 880 1327.

The on-call pharmacist can also be contacted through switchboard or Lynne Osborne on 01209 318051.

Feedback
We welcome your comments so that we can improve the service. If you have any ideas about how we could do something better please let us know. We also welcome feedback about positive aspects of the service.

If you have a complaint please let us know as soon as possible so that we can try to put things right.

If you prefer not to raise an issue with the local staff you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) for advice, information and support on 0300 330 1444 or you can write to:

PALS
Peninsula Community Health
Level 4
Sedgemoor Centre
Priory Road
St Austell
PL25 5AS

Email: Pals.Community@pch-cic.nhs.uk

www.peninsulacomunityhealth.co.uk

Peninsula Community Health is a not for profit Community Interest Company responsible for providing NHS adult community health services in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Registered in England and Wales No: 7564579
Registered office: Peninsula Community Health CIC,
Sedgemoor Centre, Priory Road,
St Austell PL25 5AS
Medicine Preparations

For people with Parkinson’s, being prepared and organised is key. It is best to put some simple preparations in place now, while you are able and before it becomes a rush.

Keep an up-to-date medication record, which includes all the medications you are currently taking (not just those for Parkinson’s) and what time you take each dose. Make sure friends and family know where you keep this record such as the ‘Message in a Bottle’ tub in the fridge (available from your pharmacy).

If you need to be admitted into hospital, it’s important that the staff know you have Parkinson’s. The alert card is useful for this. You can also keep a pre-packed overnight bag by your door with copies of your medication record and important telephone numbers such as the Parkinson’s Nurse service, specialist pharmacists, friends and family.

Help in hospital

When you are admitted into hospital, either planned or unplanned, if you feel that ward staff are not meeting your fluctuating needs or not administering your drugs correctly or on time, there are people who can help you.

You can speak to:
- The Ward Sister.
- The ward’s Pharmacist or leave a message on the Meds Info line: 01872 252587.
- The Parkinson’s Nurses: 01209 318048.

Preparing for planned admissions

1. Tell your GP, specialist or Parkinson’s nurse you are going into hospital. Your Parkinson’s nurse can talk to the ward staff about your medication needs and the importance of getting it to you on time.
2. Make staff aware you have Parkinson’s. You should do this at a pre-admission assessment and when you are admitted.
3. Prepare extra supplies of your medication. It should be kept in its original packaging and you should have at least 24 hours’ supply.
4. Staff will assess how easy it will be for you to reach your medication and take charge of it. Speak to the Ward Sister if you wish to be in charge of your own Parkinson’s medication.
5. Discuss with your named nurse how your symptoms might change as the medication begins to wear off. Suggest that they record how much help you will need to get around, with personal care and to feed yourself when this happens.

Preparing for an emergency admission

1. Bring all your medications into hospital with you in their original packages, even non-Parkinson’s drugs.
2. Tell staff you have Parkinson’s and how important it is to get your medication on time.
3. Explain to staff what medication you take, show them your medication record and ask them to keep a copy of it in your notes.
4. Staff will assess how easy it will be for you to reach your medication and take charge of it. Speak to the Ward Sister if you wish to be in charge of your own Parkinson’s medication.
5. Ask a member of staff to let your GP, specialist or Parkinson’s nurse know you that you are in hospital.
6. Discuss with your named nurse how your symptoms might change as the medication begins to wear off. Suggest that they record how much help you will need to get around, with personal care and to feed yourself when this happens.

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- The ward’s Pharmacist or leave a message on the Meds Info line: 01872 252587.
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