

INTRODUCING NEW HAMPSHIRE HOSPITAL STAFF

Many different staff work at New Hampshire Hospital. All Hospital employees are required to wear a photo identification badge in an easy-to-see place. We will help you in every way that we can. We hope your time here is as positive and helpful as possible.

Psychiatrist/Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

- The clinician who leads your Treatment Team
- Prescribes any medicine you may need
- Writes orders for your care

Medical Doctor/Physician's Assistant /Medical Nurse Practitioner

- Physical examination
- Special medical care and referrals

Nurse

- Advice and guidance on how to become and stay healthy
- Help you feel safe and calm
- Give you medications and tests that are ordered

Mental Health Worker

- Helps you plan your day and understand how things work where you're being treated
- Assists with daily activities if you need help
- Follows the directions of your nurse in helping you quickly regain your health

Social Worker

- Meets with family and friends if necessary
- Helps you get ready to leave the Hospital
- Helps you plan appointments and other arrangements for after your discharge

Psychologist

- May work with you in groups or alone as a counselor
- May meet with you to complete tests that will help us better know you
- May give special advice to your psychiatrist on the care you need

Rehabilitation

- "Rehab" staff provide a variety of groups and activities to assist in your care
- Specialized therapies are made available if needed (physical therapy, speech therapy, etc.)
- You will be able to visit the Patient Library

Dieticians

- Help you with special food and diet needs

Pastoral Care

- Available for your spiritual needs as is our interfaith chapel

Others

- Many other staff will be about the building including housekeepers, repair people, safety officers, and administrative staff.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BEING IN THE HOSPITAL

VISITING HOURS: *What are the visiting arrangements? Can my young children visit?*

General visiting hours are noon to 8 p.m. daily for adults. Visiting hours on the children's unit are 4 – 8 p.m. Monday – Friday and noon to 8 p.m. on weekends. There is a family visiting area in the lobby area to allow you the privacy and safety of visiting with young children off the unit. If this is not possible, your Team will work with you on a plan that meets your family's needs. Special arrangements may be made on a Unit based plan.

TELEPHONES: *What about telephone calls?*

There are phones on each unit. There are also public phones in the lobby area that you may be allowed to use depending on your supervision status.

MY BELONGINGS: *What can my family or other visitors bring to me?*

While you are here, you will need seasonal clothing and toiletries or personal necessities. Valuable items, such as jewelry, are not recommended because of the risk of loss. These items can be stored in the Hospital safe until you or a family member can take them home. Since food and beverages cannot be kept in the patients' rooms, please ask your visitors to limit such items to what you will eat while they are visiting. A few personal items are acceptable. Please check with a member of the staff for more details. You may buy snacks and other small gifts in the Cafeteria and Hospitality Shop.

MONEY: *What if I don't have any money?*

Your social worker is available to talk with you about money issues.

HOSPITAL PAYMENT: *Who will pay for me to be hospitalized at New Hampshire Hospital?*

During the first days of your admission, someone from the Office of Reimbursements will meet with you to review your resources and/or your family's resources to pay for your hospitalization. This representative will fully explain your obligation and will have insurance, Medicare and Medicaid coverage information. The representative will ask you to sign permission for the Hospital to release information to your insurance company to pay New Hampshire Hospital for your care.

The representative will also assist you to complete a financial statement that will provide information about our ability to pay for the care you receive. Law requires the financial statement. Please direct any questions you might have related to cost of care, your obligation to pay or payment arrangements to the Office of Reimbursements at 271-5076.

New Hampshire Hospital will provide you necessary care regardless of your ability to pay. The Office of Reimbursements financial representative and/or your social worker may be able to assist you in obtaining funding through public resources.

MEDICATIONS: *Will I have to take medicine?*

You or your guardian will make this decision with the advice of your doctor and Treatment Team. Medication can help you to overcome the difficulties of mental illness. As with any other kind of medication, there are possible side effects. We encourage you to spend time with your psychiatrist and your registered nurse to get as much information as you can to make this important decision about your treatment.

SEARCHES: *I understand that when I am admitted and possibly at other times, the staff may search my clothing, my belongings and even me! Why is this necessary?*

This is necessary to keep you and other patients and staff safe. Some people act in unusual ways when they have a psychiatric illness. We do searches only when necessary to provide a safe environment, which allows you and other patients to recover as quickly as possible. The staff is taught to handle searches in a respectful and discreet manner and any items removed will be returned to you (unless they are illegal substances or weapons).

SMOKING: *If I'm a smoker, will I be able to smoke?*

No. The Hospital is a tobacco-free campus. We can help you with patches, gum or other assistance.

DRIVING MY CAR: *Will I be able to drive my car?*

You are not allowed to drive a car during hospitalization. It is important to be fully participating in treatment and focusing on getting well. Many of the medications make you drowsy when you are getting used to them. You may be allowed to drive your car to plan your discharge.

HOW LONG WILL I STAY? *How long will I have to stay here?*

Your length of stay will depend on your legal status and how quickly you recover from your illness. The symptoms and behaviors that occur as part of mental illness may make it difficult to live safely and/or independently in the community for a while. The staff at New Hampshire Hospital adheres to a philosophy of treatment that restores health to each individual and supports independent living outside the Hospital.

STUDENTS AND TRAINING: *Who are all the students at New Hampshire Hospital?*

As a teaching hospital, New Hampshire Hospital helps to train students in many health care professions. All staff members and students are required to wear identification badges and to introduce themselves to you.

HOSPITAL ACCREDITATION: *Is the Hospital licensed or accredited?*

This is a State owned and operated facility that is part of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. Our programs and beds are certified for participating in the Medicare and Medicaid Program. Finally we're committed to quality health care. Proof of this commitment is our accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. We've been awarded accreditation because we strive to provide the very best care possible, and we've proven it by meeting The Joint Commission's standards for high quality health care.



GIFTS: *Does the hospital allow staff to receive gifts from patients or their families?*

No. Knowing that our care has made a difference in the lives of our patients and their families is always gratifying; NHH Policy on Boundaries does not permit staff to receive gifts of any kind. Letters of appreciation are acceptable to send to the hospital.