

Nursing staff on the ward can help you to get in touch with advocacy services who will help support you whilst in hospital.



Patient Advocacy

Edinburgh

Advocard:

✉: advocacy@advocard.org.uk

☎: 0131 554 5307

Mid/East Lothian

✉: advocate@capsadvocacy.org

☎: 0131 273 5118

Other supports and sources of information:

Royal Edinburgh Patients Council

✉: info@rehpatientscouncil.org.uk

☎: 0131 537 6462

Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland

✉: enquiries@mwscot.org.uk

☎: 0800 389 6809

Bed Availability: Admission to hospital during busy periods

Information for Patients and Carers



The Royal Edinburgh Building at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital

Layout & Readability reviewed by NHSL Patient & Carer
Information Group v1.0
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Admission to another ward

Due to demand on our hospital services, we might not always be able to admit you to a bed in the ward that is closest to where you live. Sometimes when this happens, staff will try to arrange for you to stay overnight in another ward in the same hospital or for you to be admitted to a different hospital in NHS Lothian.

Your care and treatment will be provided in the same way but we understand that patients prefer to be looked after closer to home.

Staff will work closely with the other care team to ensure any disruption to your stay in hospital is kept to a minimum and you receive good quality care.

Admission to another hospital outwith the local area

Unfortunately, it might not always be possible to arrange your admission to another ward in NHS Lothian. If this is the case, staff will try to arrange your admission to a hospital in another health board area in Scotland, preferably one that is the closest.

We recognise this can be difficult for patients, their family or friends due to the distance involved and the difficulties this may cause in allowing them to visit you. In these circumstances your care teams will work together to try to make sure you are transferred back to an appropriate ward in Lothian as soon as it is possible to do so, if you still need to be in hospital.

If you or your visitor need support with travel costs, please contact a member of staff from our Welfare Team on: **0131 537 6387**.

Delays in being admitted to hospital

If your admission cannot be arranged to a ward elsewhere in Lothian or in another health board area, the staff will ensure you are provided with a comfortable area to wait in the hospital until you can be given a designated bed.

You will of course be looked after by members of the multidisciplinary care team during this time but we recognise this will limit your access to the privacy and facilities you require for a short time. If this happens, staff will work to make sure this is only for a very limited period of time.