



Ward 1 Spinal Services

Ward Attender Information

You will have been referred to us usually by your GP (General Practitioner) as you have certain signs and symptoms associated with severe back pain.

You may hear the term 'ward attender', this simply means you are attending the ward for examination and investigation but are not a patient admitted to the ward.

We ask that you do not eat, drink or have chewing gum until told it is safe to do so by a doctor or member of nursing staff.

Upon arrival a member of nursing staff will contact the on call specialist registrar who will come and assess you and ask about your pain and symptoms, past medical history and current medication.

If you wish to have a chaperone with you during the physical examination, this can be provided for you.

Sometimes the registrar may be in the middle of a clinic or in surgery, therefore there may be a wait for him or her to become available to get to the ward and we thank you for your patience.

If you have been having problems passing urine then a bladder scan will be performed by a member of staff to ensure you're not retaining any urine. A bladder scan is similar to a portable ultrasound scan.

Based on the registrar's assessment, you may have an MRI of the spine. There may be a wait for this whilst a slot is being organised, a porter will collect you and take you for your MRI.

On return to the ward the registrar will review the scan and make a decision on your pathway, this may be surgical treatment or pain management by your GP.

Please note if you are sent home after this review you will need to arrange your transport home.

We understand that waiting can be frustrating however we will try to keep you updated the best we can.

We advise that you stay on the ward whilst waiting to see the registrar or for your MRI scan. If you do need to leave the ward please let the nurse in charge know and leave your mobile number, if we cannot contact you and you are not on the ward your waiting time may increase.

Thank you for your patience and co-operation.

Useful Contact Numbers

Ward 1: 0121 685 4282

PALS: 0121 685 4128