



University College London Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

# University College Hospital

Ambulatory Care Unit  
Cancer Services



uclh

## Introduction

This leaflet provides a brief overview of the service delivered by the Ambulatory Care Unit (ACU) at University College London Hospitals (UCLH).

## What is Ambulatory Care?

Ambulatory Care provides an opportunity for many of our adult cancer patients to receive treatment or part of their care without having to stay in hospital overnight.

The ACU delivers a range of treatments which have historically been provided within the inpatient setting. These include stem cell and bone marrow transplants and various chemotherapy regimens. Some treatments within the Unit may also be delivered via infusional pumps which are either carried in a small bag or a backpack.

If your medical team think that Ambulatory Care is suitable for you, you will receive your care in a day care setting and stay in a local hotel or at home overnight.

**Please note:** Being able to stay at home will depend on how far you live from UCLH and the treatment you are having.

If you are staying in a hotel, we will encourage you to invite a companion to stay with you. Room costs and breakfast for both patients and their companions are paid for by UCLH.

Whether you stay at home or in a hotel, you will be able to contact a senior nurse 24 hours a day if you need advice or become unwell. If necessary, the nurse will arrange a hospital admission for you.

## **Benefits of Ambulatory Care**

- The hotel offers you a comfortable environment to stay in between your daily treatments. Similarly, if you are staying at home, this should allow you a greater degree of privacy, independence and normality throughout your treatment.
- Your partner or relative can stay with you throughout your treatment (this is not always possible in the hospital).
- You will have full access to all relevant services offered at UCLH, such as visits from your clinical nurse specialist (CNS) and complementary therapy team.
- Your treatment will be scheduled to start and finish at certain times each day. This means less waiting time and more time out of the hospital environment.

**‘The experience enabled me to live a normal life; it was especially good for my general morale and wellbeing.’**

**ACU patient**

### **Contact details**

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## **Where can I get more information?**

If you would like more information about the ACU, please speak to a member of the nursing staff looking after you. You can also ask for a copy of our more detailed booklet 'The Ambulatory Care Service', or request a visit to the Unit.

**If you need a large print, audio, braille, easy read, age-friendly or translated copy of this leaflet, please contact us on 020 3456 7890 extension 78695. We will do our best to meet your needs.**

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