University College London Hospitals

Medical students at UCLH
If you would like this leaflet in another format or translated into another language, please ring our PALS office on 020 3447 3042. We will do our best to meet your needs.

University College London Hospitals are teaching hospitals – that is, they teach medical students to become doctors. This leaflet will inform you of your rights in our hospitals with regards to these students.

Teaching tomorrow’s doctors….

Introduction
Almost 2000 students study medicine at the UCL Medical School. Every day around 200 of them are at the UCLH, talking to and examining patients, observing in the operating theatre and X-ray suites and learning by apprenticeship. It is very likely that you will meet these young people whose teachers are the doctors, nurses and other professionals who care for you.

How do students learn?
Learning and teaching are the tools that enable us to achieve excellence. Students learn best by interviewing and talking to you as part of our everyday work at the UCLH. By meeting with you they are learning much about interacting with people, and gaining knowledge not easily obtained from textbooks. Students will meet patients on wards and in the outpatient departments. They may also be present as observers when you have tests, or procedures or operations. These activities enrich and underpin all the caring, promotion of good health, and research that we do at the UCLH NHS Foundation Trust.
**How can I identify students?**
The students have ID badges and these should be visible to you. Students should always be introduced to you, or introduce themselves, and ask your permission for any interaction on the wards or in the clinics.

**What if I don’t want students present?**
You are always free to refuse to have medical students present. **This will not affect your care in any way.**

It is also your right if you are a woman approached by a male student who asks to examine you, to request the presence of a female nurse, doctor or student as a chaperone.

**Confidentiality**
Students are bound by the professional duty of confidentiality. They are expected to pass relevant personal information that you give them to the responsible doctor, but no further. If you want to talk to a student in confidence you are welcome to do so but please understand that the student is normally expected to pass on information relevant to your treatment.

**Patient care**
Students are taught that dignity is a top priority in caring for people and should treat you with respect. If you have any concerns regarding students and your care, please speak to the nurse in charge, the senior doctor or Dr Gavin Johnson.
Consent for examination under anaesthetic

Although students begin to learn some skills in examining patients using dummies or models they must also examine real patients. If there is the possibility of this taking place during an examination under anaesthetic (for example, a vaginal or rectal examination) your permission will be sought, and the examination will be strictly supervised by your doctor or nurse. Such an examination is not permitted under any other circumstances. You will be approached by the student who will explain what is involved and, if you agree, you will be asked to sign a form naming the student receiving your permission. There is no pressure upon you to agree; you can refuse and this will not affect your care in any way.

A medical student is also not permitted to act as a chaperone whilst you are undergoing an intimate examination by your doctor or nurse.

The students and their teachers are grateful for your contribution to their learning.

Contact details

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Where can I get more information on the UCLH?
Website: www.uclh.nhs.uk
Email: www.pals@uclh.nhs.uk

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