

The Adult Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Service Overview

Giselle Padmore-Payne

Roald Dahl Transition, Sr CNS and Team Lead for Adult Haemoglobinopathies

King's



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Background

- **Sickle Cell Disease is an inherited condition affecting the red blood cells (RBC's).**
- **King's Department of Haematological Medicine (apart of Kings Health Partners) is a one of the leading and largest centre for the care of patients with blood disorders.**
- **Kings College Hospital Denmark Hill and PRUH , our community counterparts covering Southwark and Lambeth and Bromley.**
- **Provision of a specialist consultation and nursing services.**
- **Our team works collaboratively with other hospitals(GSTT, St Georges, Maudsley, Woolwich ,Lewisham and Croydon). With possibility of outreach services elsewhere.**
- **Specialist day unit, outpatient and inpatient services to diagnose and treat sickle cell and thalassaemia from birth , to transition and then into adulthood.**

Inpatient Service

If patients need to come into hospital, we aim to admit patients to one of the haematology wards.

- Sometimes patients are admitted under different specialities/wards and later transferred to a haematology ward.
- **The haematology wards are Elf & Libra, Davidson, Derek Mitchell and Waddington.**
- Patients are cared for by nurses and doctors trained in sickle cell and thalassaemia.
- If patients are admitted 5pm-9am, Monday-Friday, or at the weekend, patients may be seen by doctors from another team.
- They will transfer patient care to the haematology team on the next working day.
- **Ward rounds are facilitated with a MDT approach , Consultant, registrar, SHO ,Acute CNS , Community CNS and Psychologist**

Community services

We work closely with the community specialist sickle cell and thalassaemia nurses.

Some parts of patients care are best provided by them rather than us.

We can refer patients to them if a patient needs support at home. We will talk to patients about your needs before referring you to the community team.

They can provide:

- home visits
- support with housing and other social issues
- help with benefit applications.

Clinics

We hold regular clinics for people with sickle cell and thalassaemia.

- We see new patients and those being transferred from Paediatrics to Adults once transitioned and established patients for follow-up care.
- **Adolescent clinic – every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month (MDT) approach**
- Sickle cell clinic – every Thursday, 2 - 5pm
- **Thalassaemia clinic – every Friday, 2 - 5pm**
- Hydroxyurea Nurse Led Clinic every other Friday (Supported by Consultant)

Joint Clinics monthly , bi-monthly and tri-monthly

Joint specialist clinics	What they treat/provide	When	Time	Where
Orthopaedic	Hip problems	First Wednesday of every month	9am-1pm	Suite 1, Golden Jubilee Wing
Antenatal	Antenatal care	Tuesdays	9am-1pm	Suite 8, Golden Jubilee Wing
Renal	Kidney problems	Last Thursday of every other month	2pm-5pm	Haematology Outpatients
Cardiology	Pulmonary hypertension and heart problems	One Friday* every three months	2pm-5pm	Haematology Outpatients
Hepatology	Liver problems	One Thursday* every three months	2pm-5pm	Haematology Outpatients

What happens when patients come to the clinic?

Patients are advised to go to Phlebotomy in Golden Jubilee first

- Then check-in with the receptionist on arrival in the Haematology Out Patients (HOP)

One Stop Shop /Comprehensive Approach

- Seen by a specialist nurse (Acute CNS ,Community CNS and HCA) Pain assessment and Care plan review, followed by Specialist psychologist and other multidisciplinary team members
- Patients are then reviewed by one of our consultants or a registrar
- We may arrange for patients to have tests e.g. (urine sample) other tests at a later e.g MRI
- We may refer patients to see other specialists.
- We will check if patients are up-to date with vaccinations such as pneumovax (every 5 years). If you have long-term transfusions, we offer patients' a vaccination against hepatitis B.
- Once a year, patients have a more detailed check-up (Annual Review). Added to National Haemaglobinopathy Registry.

Specialist Services

Day Unit/Supportive Therapy Unit

Where is it?

- Haematology Outpatients, ground floor, Cheyne Wing

When is it open?

- Monday - Friday, 9am – 16:30pm

On Offer

- Immediate management of patients with sickle cell who are having acute painful crises.
- Regular and occasional blood transfusions (exchange or top-up) and reviews for other medical problems. No Acute Chest or Priapism (classed as a medical emergency and must be seen in Accident and Emergency)
- We do not offer walk-in blood tests, (exceptions)

Specialist Services

Apheresis Unit

Where is it?

- Second floor, Guthrie Wing

When is it open?

- Monday - Friday, 9am – 5pm

What services does it provide?

- Patients can have automated exchange blood transfusions in the Apheresis Unit. Specialist nurses use a machine to do the procedure.

Specialist Services

Blood tests (Phlebotomy)

Where is it?

- Ground floor, Golden Jubilee Wing

When is it open?

- Monday - Friday, 7.30am – 6.30pm

What services does it provide?

- This department provides walk-in blood tests. On arrival patient should explain they are attending one of the haematology clinics

Specialist Services

Weekends, Bank Holidays and Monday - Friday, 5pm – 9am

- **Local or** King's Emergency Department (ED). If patients regularly attend our sickle cell clinic, the doctors and nurses in the ED will be able to access your care plan to guide your treatment.

Emergency treatment

- **If patients are brought into hospital by ambulance, patients will be taken to the ED and not HOP.**
- If this happens Monday-Friday, 9am- 5pm, a member of our sickle cell team will review patients and initiate appropriate treatment or offer guidance

Opening times excluding bank Holidays

	Location	Opening times
Haematology Outpatients (HOP)/Supportive Therapy Unit	Ground floor, Cheyne Wing	9am – 5pm Monday – Friday*
Blood Tests (Phlebotomy) department	Ground floor, Golden Jubilee Wing	7.30am – 6.30pm Monday – Friday*
Apheresis Unit	Second floor, Guthrie Wing	9am – 5pm Monday – Friday*
Sickle cell clinic (Haematology Outpatients)	Ground floor, Cheyne Wing	2pm-5pm Thursday
Thalassaemia clinic (Haematology Outpatients)	Ground floor, Cheyne Wing	2pm-5pm Friday

Service User Involvement

Patient discussion forum

- We hold a patient forum twice a year. This gives patients the chance to find out more about sickle cell disorders, understand your condition better and learn how to stay healthy. You can also tell us what you think of our services and get involved in developing them.

Adolescent /Transition Workshop

- We hold a transition workshop twice a year. This gives young adults the chance to find out more about sickle cell disorders, understand their condition better and learn how to stay healthy as well as have a tour of the hospital and future areas for treatment and admissions. You can also tell us what you think of our services and get involved in developing them.

Patient support group

- Aim to facilitate this with psychology input 3 times a year, at the hospital. It gives people with sickle cell the chance to share their experiences, ideas and information.

Summary

Kings College Hospital and Guys and St Thomas' Foundation Trust serves the largest numbers of patients with sickle cell disease in the country, combined we are the biggest comprehensive tertiary Sickle Cell Centres,

Providing speciality care for patients of all ages.

In the last 5 years the Haemoglobinopathies Service has developed a regional clinical network in the South East of England, providing specialist outreach care in hospitals in the region, with oversight to the care of over >1000 patients in the area.

Guidelines and Pathways underpinned by the NICE(2017) guidelines (2016), peer review and National Standards for Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia

We aim to Raise awareness, share our knowledge and skills whereby improving service provision and standards of care for all patients and their families.

References

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King's Acknowledgement

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King's Questions

