

Safe & compassionate care,

every time

# Neonatal and children's nursing

**Paediatrics is part of the division of specialist services. We provide inpatient and outpatient paediatric care across six different areas, but our ethos is to operate as one department working together to provide rotational nursing posts, sharing expertise and skills and supporting our staff wherever they work.**

Paediatric nursing is varied and extremely rewarding. As well as providing compassionate patient care a key part of our role is to communicate with the families and carers of our young patients. Working with us will provide both newly qualified and experienced nurses with a broad range of skills and experiences which will help in your career progression.

We are an enthusiastic and friendly department who are supported by an engaged and motivated senior team. We work with ten paediatric consultants to deliver exceptionally high quality patient care and because our nursing and medical staff work across all our wards we are able to develop supportive working relationships across professional boundaries.

We are proud that our commitment to providing the best patient care is reflected in the high scores we achieve in our 'friends and family test' results.

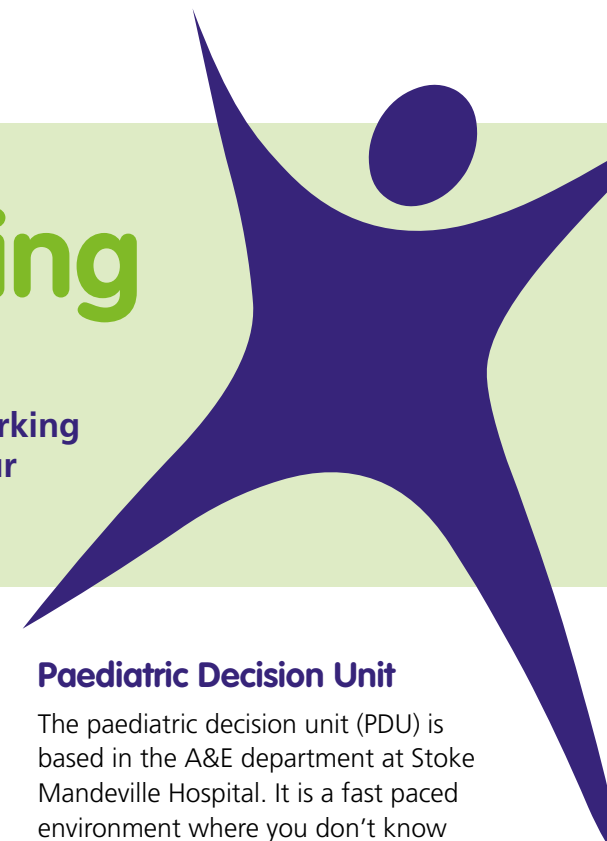
## Acute children's ward

Located at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, ward 3 is our 26-bedded acute children's ward treating patients with a wide variety of conditions. Ward 3 is different to children's wards in many other acute trusts as all medical and surgical specialties are admitted here, from burns to pneumonia to routine surgery so providing variety in the work we do.

If you're newly qualified, working on ward 3 is a great place to begin your career. You'll be able to use the full range of your nursing skills and, as our patients age from birth to 19 years of age, you'll be honing your communication skills as well.

## Paediatric Decision Unit

The paediatric decision unit (PDU) is based in the A&E department at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. It is a fast paced environment where you don't know who will come through the doors next. Because of the nature of the work, it is essential that nurses have relevant experience to work here so they are able to make quick decisions safely. As an experienced nurse you can join us permanently on the PDU, or work across the PDU, ward 3 and the children's decision unit.



## Children's Decision Unit

The children's decision unit (CHDU) is based at Wycombe hospital and is an 18-bedded day case ward working from 8am – 9pm Monday to Friday. We deal with elective day case procedures as well as GP heralded patients who may be treated here and sent home, or transferred to ward 3 for admission.

As with the PDU it is essential that nurses who work on the CHDU have experience before being based here permanently. However, as a newly qualified nurse you will be given the opportunity to spend time on the CHDU to gain experience as part of your rotation. Experienced nurses can elect to be based here permanently or work across the CHDU, PDU and ward 3.

## St Francis Ward and paediatric outpatients

St Francis ward is part of the National Spinal Injuries Centre and is the only dedicated unit for children with spinal cord injuries in the country. Although it has its own dedicated staff we offer our newly qualified staff the opportunity to rotate between ward 3 and St Francis ward to gain unique and very specialist experience.

We also run paediatric outpatients at both Wycombe and Stoke Mandeville where staff are able to gain experience when possible.



## Neo-natal unit

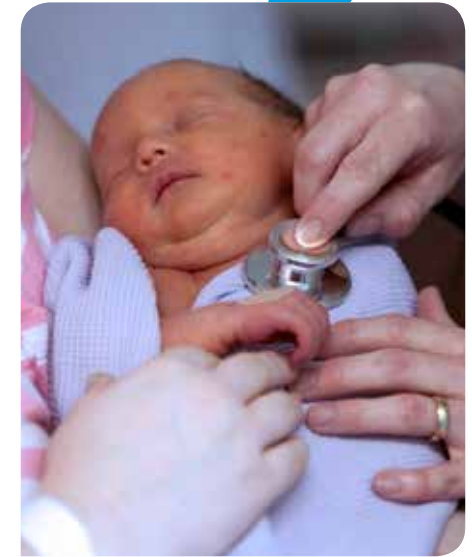
Our neo-natal unit has 21 cots; 2 intensive care, 3 high dependency and 16 special care. Although very much part of the paediatric department, the development opportunities on the neo-natal unit are different to the other wards. Instead of being part of the rotational programme the neo-natal unit requires nurses with specialist neo-natal intensive care expertise and a commitment to specialise in this area. Therefore, nurses on our unit may already have the neo-natal intensive care qualification or are willing to complete it. However, this doesn't mean that as a newly qualified nurse you can't join us. You'll be joining us knowing we'll fund your study to become qualified as a neo-natal intensive care nurse. You'll be given experience on the ward before commencing your study and will be supported throughout the course.

## How we support our nurses

Our practice development nurses work alongside all our nurses providing 1-1 teaching and career development support, helping you identify your professional development needs. We offer in-house specialist training as well as updates on new national guidelines or learning from incident reporting and are willing to support external training courses such as relevant masters degree qualifications.

We provide all our new starters with a robust induction programme and no newly qualified nurse will be left to deal with difficult situations without support. We work a 12-hour shift system and are committed to ensuring there is a senior member of staff accessible on the wards at all times.

We have been awarded exemplar status for our wards, recently received excellent results from a Nursing and Midwifery Council education audit and are regularly told by our nurses that the level of support and training they receive far surpasses anywhere else they have worked.



  
**Be the future**