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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Aneurin Bevan
University Health Board

Talygarn Ward
Grounds of County Hospital
Coed-y-Gric Road, Griffithstown
Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 5YA

Telephone: 01495 765 700
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Welcome to Talygarn Ward

Talygarn Ward is a 21- bed mental health acute unit with 2 of these beds reserved for out of hour's service, we are dedicated to providing assessment and treatment for individuals suffering from mental health deterioration, between the ages of 18-64. We provide mental health services for residents of the Torfaen and Monmouthshire borough.

Our philosophy involves a recovery process, whole service approach. Our team contributing to your care consists of nursing, medical, occupational therapy, social services, psychology staff and home treatment team.

Out of Hour's Service

Talygarn provides the out of hour's assessment unit for Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. This operates between the hours of:

2400 – 0700 Monday to Thursday

2400 - Friday – 0700 Monday

This means that individuals who require a mental health assessment between the hours stated above attend Talygarn ward to see the on-call doctor. This process can often lead to an individual requiring an admission. If the individual has been admitted but resides in another postal area they will be transferred by our dedicated Health Care team to their relevant ward in the morning following their admission.

We understand that occasionally this can cause a few disruptions to the wards therapeutic environment or require individuals to move to another hospital to accommodate this service, we apologise in advance if this may happen during your stay.

Admission to our service.

We aim to provide you with a primary nurse upon admission to the ward. They will liaise with you and aim to identify individual needs, so your care pathway can be quick, clear and consistent. This process allows us to develop your individualised care plan. For those relevant under the Mental Health Measure (2010) you will be provided with a Care and Treatment Plan. You will be offered a copy of this plan which will be reviewed on a regular basis by your care co-ordinator.

All individuals admitted to the ward will be assessed to identify individual needs. It may be necessary for some individuals to be on higher levels of observations than others. This will be discussed regularly between yourself and the Multi-disciplinary team. As a standard, each patient on the ward is checked on an hourly basis to ensure safety and comply with fire regulations.

On admission to the ward we ask can you please:

- Hand in all medication –whilst on ward only prescribed medication dispensed by the registered nurse is permitted.
- Agree to a search of person and belongings – to reduce risk to all. Hand in valuables for safe keepings, although we discourage valuables being brought in and maximum of £30 cash is preferable.
- Abide with ward rules and further requests we ask.

Admission Status

Talygarn accommodates both for Informal and Formal status patients.

Informal - We recommend and suggest a 72 hour assessment period where you remain on the ward following admission. The purpose of an informal admission is often to prevent the patient's mental health from deteriorating further. Therefore in a minority of cases where the patient is seeking discharge or leave with no collaboration and where there might be severe risks attached, staff may prevent the patient from leaving through use of the Mental Health Act (83/07). The use of the use of this would be for the purpose of preventing self-harm or harm to others and would result in a Mental Health Assessment to consider whether the patient should continue to be detained under the Mental Health Act for continued assessment and/or treatment.

Formal - status patients are detained on the unit under varying Sections of the Mental Health Act (83/07) and are bound by terms and conditions associated to the applicable section. Patients detained under the Mental Health Act have formal rights which are formally presented to them and will have the right to representation by an Independent Mental Health Advocate (IMHA). Formally detained patients may not leave the unit unless agreed by their Registered Clinician with the necessary Section 17 leave form completed.

Staff on the ward:

The staff team on the ward is made up of nurses, health care support workers and an occupational therapist – which are based on the ward throughout the day. The team work together with you to identify your strengths / difficulties and support you in your recovery. You can identify 'who is who' by colours:



Nurses – Royal Blue or Navy

Nursing Assistants – Turquoise or Green

All staff will be wearing an identification badge, feel free to approach any staff if you have a question and they will be happy to help.

Ward Round

Ward rounds are held throughout the week.

Monday (North Torfaen) - Dr. Lyons (Bank holidays push forward to Tuesday)

Wednesday (Monmouthshire) – Dr Basu

Thursday (South Torfaen) - Dr. Fielding

The purpose of the ward round is for the consultant and the team to review your progress, and to make decisions with you regarding your care. During this time, you are invited to express your views about your care. The ward round is made up of a number of people who are part of your recovery. We encourage you to involve your family in your recovery process.

About the ward

Rooms

Talygarn consists of single and dormitory rooms. Nursing staff allocate depending on assessment of your needs. If you are given a single room we may require you to move into a dormitory at short notice when required. This will only happen when essential.

Property

On admission your property will be checked by nursing staff to ensure that Health and Safety standards are maintained. If and when necessary further checks can be carried out during your stay. Please understand the trust accepts no responsibility for your belongings during your stay in hospital. We ask please do not bring valuables into the ward.

Storage room

Each person is allocated a box in a locked storage cupboard. This can be used to safely store money, electrical items or items that are prohibited from being easily accessible on the ward. This will include any sharp items (scissors, razors, nail files etc.) or glass. Items must be given in to nursing staff who will lock them in your storage box. You can request these when needed, please return to nursing staff immediately after use. If you are unsure about this please contact a member of staff who can explain this further.

Mobile phones

We understand mobile phones are an important way for you to keep in contact with family and friends. We ask please only use your phone in the foyer and yard area. Should you require to make a private call (i.e. Solicitor) staff can arrange a room for you to use to facilitate this. If individuals would like to listen to the music on their portable devices, please respect others and use headphones.

Mobile phones are charged at 14.30 and 22.00, so please ensure that you hand in your mobile phone at these times.

We would like to remind individuals it is an offence to take photographs or record anyone who does not give their permission and Aneurin Bevan Health Board will prosecute those who misuse their mobile telephones.

Smoking

Smoking is only permitted in the court yard. This only for individuals admitted to the ward and not visitors, between the hours of 0600 hours till midnight. No smoking is permitted anywhere on the hospital grounds – it is an offence to do so.

Alcohol & Drugs

NO alcohol or illicit substances are to be consumed on or off the ward during your admission. Illicit drugs will not be tolerated and the police WILL be informed. Any individuals suspected to be under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs will be breathalysed or asked to provide a urine sample. It should be noted that during your stay a random police search, with dogs may take place, in order to detect illicit substances.

Violence and Aggression

Talygarn operates a zero tolerance approach to any violence or aggression displayed towards staff or fellow residents in keeping with Health Board Policy. Any breach of this will result in immediate police involvement and probable prosecution.

Driving

If you have brought your car, you are advised to leave keys with nurse in charge or your designated storage box. Please do not drive whilst inpatient as your insurance can be invalidated whilst you are an inpatient. The law obliges license holders to notify the DVLA as soon as they become aware of any medical condition, including mental health conditions.

Communal Meetings

We hold a meeting every Wednesday to allow opportunity for you to comment on your stay on the ward. We value your views and suggestions which are always welcomed.

Psychological and occupational therapy

We are extremely fortunate to have an occupational therapist and assistant therapist based on the ward Monday – Friday 9am till 5pm. They can offer assistance with benefits and housing concerns. They aim to promote independent living and encourage you to gain and continue to grow your skills whilst you reside with us. The psychology team hold group sessions on the ward daily Monday to Friday, this is to assist you gain new coping skills.

Visiting times

Monday to Friday: 15.30pm – 17.00pm and
17.30 pm – 20.00pm

Weekends and bank holidays: 11.00am – 12.00pm,
12.30pm – 17.00pm and
17.30pm – 20.00pm.

Should you require alternative hours can be arranged with the nurse in charge.

If you have children visiting they must be accompanied by an adult, please notify the nurse in charge at your earliest convenience so they can arrange a private room for you. Unfortunately we do not permit children to access the main areas of the ward.

Should you have any concerns or complaints about your stay please contact a member of the management team by phoning the ward.

Ann James –Senior Nurse for Adult Mental Health Torfaen

Nelly Pritchard - Ward Manager

Olu Akanro – Deputy Ward Manager

Gabrielle Gwyther – Deputy Ward Manager

Richard Ellis - Deputy Ward Manager