

Colchester Hospital

Colchester General Hospital is a busy district general hospital within East Suffolk & North Essex NHS Foundation Trust, itself forming in 2018 as part of a merger with Ipswich Hospital.

Colchester, England's oldest recorded town, former capital of Roman Britain and home of the University of Essex, is situated in the beautiful North East area of Essex. It is surrounded by stunning countryside including the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and is less than 20 miles from the Essex Coast including Frinton-on-Sea, Clacton and Mersea Island. London Liverpool Street is a 50 minute train ride away and Stansted airport a 30 minute drive. Local amenities are excellent and schools in the area are highly regarded.

Situated on the north side of town, the hospital is less than 2 miles from junction 28 of the A12, and less than a mile from the railway station.

The hospital itself has around 560 beds and has 18 operating theatres. Most surgical specialties are covered including major vascular surgery, major colorectal and robotic surgery. It has one of the busiest orthopaedic trauma units in the country and there are plans underway to build a state of the art Elective Orthopaedic Centre. There are daily pre-operative assessment clinics and cardiopulmonary exercise testing is also performed. There is a culture of education, including high-fidelity simulation, embedded within the department.

The obstetric unit delivers around 4000 babies each year, more than 1000 by caesarean section. The critical care unit is commissioned for 13 beds, flexed to approaching 30 at times of surge during the pandemic, and admits approximately 800 patients per year.

The anaesthetic department is staffed by a friendly and enthusiastic team of around 33 consultants and associate specialists, 14 specialty doctors, trust grades and anaesthetic physician associates, and 20 trainees. We also have a number of Clinical Fellow posts including Perioperative Medicine and Simulation.

There are 4 tiers of on-call junior doctors for anaesthetics (obstetrics, theatres and two for the critical care unit) and the on-call frequency is currently 1:8. There are rest facilities including on-call rooms, and hospital accommodation can be arranged following night shifts, if required.

