

DEPARTMENT OF ANAESTHESIA

SOUTH WING, BEDFORD HOSPITAL

Bedford Hospital South Wing (Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust) is a bustling, friendly district general hospital that serves the population of Bedford and surrounding areas with a wider catchment for vascular services.

The Trust has approximately 360 beds and provides a full range of acute services, with beds for Cardiology, Care of the Elderly, ENT, General Medicine, AAU, General Surgery, Gynaecology, Neonatal, Obstetrics, Oncology, Trauma and Orthopaedics, Paediatrics, Vascular Surgery, Breast Surgery and Urology. We are also a Robotic Centre and have a Da Vinci Robot for Colorectal Surgery, Gynaecology and Urology. There is a full Level 2 A&E Department, with an Ambulatory Emergency Care Unit.

The anaesthetic department has 21 anaesthetic consultants and about 28 non-consultant anaesthetists comprising Staff grades, trainees and locally-employed doctors. It offers a consultant led acute pain and CPEX services.

There are 10 operating theatres with Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Endoscopy patients being offered treatment in their own specialist units. The Ophthalmology service is managed within the Trust's facilities by Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

The Delivery suite houses an additional operating theatre and 8 maternity beds on labour ward overseeing on average 3000 deliveries per year.

The Critical Care Complex provides both High Dependency and Intensive Care beds and Outreach services to a maximum capacity of 10 beds.

OUR VISION: To provide safe and progressive, holistic healthcare to our patients. We endeavour to achieve national standards of care provision for our patients.

Within the department, we offer modular training to our novice anaesthetists whereby they progress from obtaining their competency to going on call for each sector (theatres/ Obstetrics and ITU). Post-primary trainees are offered modular experience appropriate to their needs and stage of training, including management experience such as shadowing and joining the Chief Resident programme.



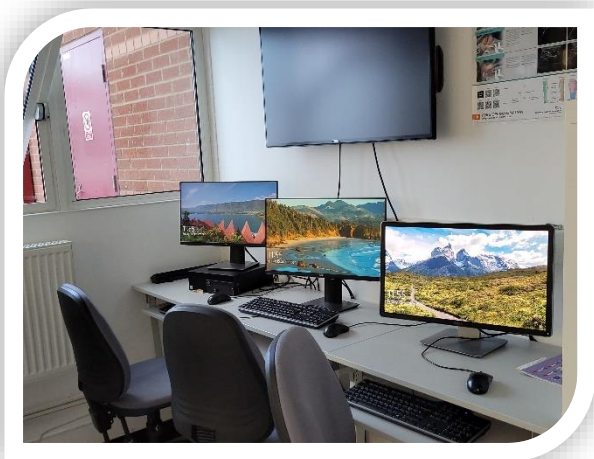
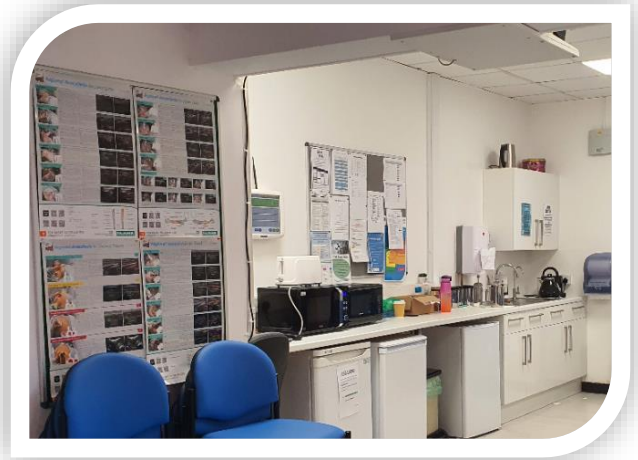
Sample on call rotas - for each level of rota:

Duty hours

Theatre: 0800-2030 & 2000-0830

Obstetrics: 0800-2030 & 2000-0830

ICU: 0830-2100 & 2030-0900



Expected responsibilities when on call:

Resident anaesthetists for theatres, ICU and delivery suite. Theatre anaesthetist is responsible for the emergency theatre and also carries a cardiac arrest and trauma bleep. They may also be required for the transfer of critically ill patients (once transferred trained).

ICU anaesthetist is responsible for the care of all intensive care patients, reviewing ward referrals and admitting patients to ICU (after discussion with the on call consultant). They also carry a cardiac arrest and trauma bleep. There is a 9 am business ward round, the main ward round occurs at 12:15 in the ITU seminar room and there is a further evening handover at 1800.

Obstetric anaesthetist is expected to attend the labour ward handover at 0800 & 2000 and provide anaesthetic services to delivery suite.

The on-call tiers should work as a team and are expected assist each other when required.

There are two consultants on call – one for Theatres and Maternity and one for ITU.

TRAINEE TEACHING :

The hospital has a state-of-the-art SIM suite with many courses run for the FYs – anaesthetic trainees are encouraged to participate in the delivery of SIM sessions as well as the conduct of Skills days such as Lumbar Puncture/ US-guided CVC etc. Post exam trainees are also encouraged to participate in organising the regional primary FRCA teaching at Bedford hospital.

We offer regular courses at the Clinical Skill Lab centre for ALS, EPALS, ATLS, and NLS.



Bedfordshire Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

We have a very robust Primary FRCA teaching programme for the Core trainees and excellent examination success rates. We also offer personal and portfolio-development time built in to the rota for our post FRCA trainees. Transfer training courses are held regularly in the department.

We encourage and support trainees in conducting Audits, QI projects and Journal Club presentations as well as poster and oral presentations at national/ international symposia.

SOCIAL ASPECT:

We are a very friendly department and regularly organise welcome/ farewell meals for our trainees; bowling/ cricket etc. as sporting fixtures and Christmas dinners/ movie and game evenings. Trainees have always given very agreeable feedback on their stay with us and most of them leave with the desire to return later in their careers.