

A guide for patients and those important to them

Information and advice for patients



the **AMBER** care bundle

This leaflet aims to answer your questions about what the AMBER care bundle is. It will also explain how we use it to keep you informed about your condition and provide you with the best possible support with any decisions you need to make. If you have any further questions about the AMBER care bundle, then please speak to the doctor or nurse caring for you.

What is the AMBER care bundle and who is it for?

At Sherwood Forest Hospitals we aim to provide the highest standard of care for you and those important to you. It is important that you are involved with decisions about your care as much as you would like.

Sometimes, despite our best efforts, treatments do not give the results that were hoped for, or you might be too unwell to have certain treatments, and your recovery may be uncertain. In this situation the AMBER care bundle can support the ward team including doctors, nurses and specialists to work together to give you the best possible care and support.

Some people receiving the AMBER care bundle may respond to treatment and recover from their current illness and others may not respond to treatment and further discussions may be needed.

The AMBER care bundle is not about stopping your treatments but aims to keep you and those important to you informed about what is happening and listening to your priorities.

What are the benefits of the AMBER care bundle to patients?

The AMBER care bundle will improve communication and decision making between patients, those important to them and the medical team providing their care. AMBER provides the opportunity for patients to be actively involved with discussions about their treatment. Patients are monitored closely and discussions consider the patient's wishes and preferences, which allows the team to respond quickly to any changes in the patient's condition.

What does being an AMBER patient mean?

The medical team, including doctors and nurses will discuss whether a patient should be supported by the AMBER care bundle. They will agree the best treatment plan and will discuss this with the patient and (with their consent) those important to them. If the patient is not able to give consent, treatment planning will involve those important to the patient. Being an AMBER patient means:

- Patients will be monitored closely daily, allowing the medical team to respond quickly to any changes in their condition.

- Patients and those important to them (with the patient's consent), will be informed of any changes in their condition and treatment, so they can be actively involved in their care as part of individualised care planning.
- Patients will be given an opportunity to discuss how and where they would like to be cared for in the future if they do not recover.
- Patients are encouraged to talk to the medical team about any personal wishes or concerns that they have.

AMBER patients may respond well to treatment and improve. However, as their recovery is uncertain their condition can deteriorate further, and everyone needs to be prepared. This gives patients and those important to them the time to prioritise what is important to them.

What happens if AMBER patients improve?

If the patient improves and recovers, they may wish to go home or another place of care. This is an opportunity to talk about any help needed on discharge, and about future care – including if their health worsens again what their wishes and preferences would be. The team will support patients and those important to them with these discussions.

What happens when AMBER patients don't respond to treatment or become worse?

The ward team will explain and discuss any other possible treatments that may be appropriate. They may also talk about other options and about future care wishes and plans. Medical treatment is one part of care, and it is important that patients can discuss what is important to them, so their wishes and preferences are included in their plan of care.

If AMBER patients go home are their GPs informed?

Yes. The ward team will inform a patient's GP about their admission and share information about future care preferences. This is important as it will help ensure that the patient's needs are met, once home.

Who should be contacted if I have any further questions?

If you have any further questions about the AMBER care bundle or would like more information, you can discuss this with your named nurse. Alternatively, you could discuss the AMBER care bundle with the ward leader or a member of your medical team.

Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions

Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net.

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you. External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. If you require a full list of references (if relevant) for this leaflet, please email sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

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