



Bermuda Hospitals Board

How we care for you on a KEMH acute care inpatient unit

When you are admitted to an acute care inpatient unit at BHB, there are many different people who will be part of your clinical care team on the unit. The clinical leader of the team will be the doctor most responsible for your care, called your “most responsible physician” or MRP. They work closely with you and your family to help you recover and prepare for discharge.

Why do I need a most responsible physician (MRP) while I’m in hospital?

Your MRP directs a clinical care team (nurses, physiotherapists, dietitians, other specialist physicians, etc) to develop and carry out your care plan. For most people on an acute inpatient unit, a hospitalist will be their MRP. If you were admitted to the acute care inpatient unit following a planned surgical procedure, your surgeon may be your MRP.

What is a hospitalist?

A hospitalist is an internal medicine specialist who is an expert in complex and serious conditions. KEMH follows the same model as the US, UK and Canada, with hospitalists in charge of most acute inpatient care as they have the most appropriate training for the types of care inpatients need.

Why is a hospitalist my most responsible physician (MRP) and not my GP?

Hospitalists have additional hospital training and are experienced dealing with patients who need hospital care. Hospitalists also are on site 24-7 so can respond quickly to medical issues or emergencies. They are only your MRP while you are in hospital. General practitioners (GPs), also called family doctors, are experts in community-based care.

What’s my GP’s role while I’m in hospital?

Your GP is your doctor in the community. If you are on an inpatient acute care unit, your GP doesn’t direct patient care. This is done by your hospitalist. Admitting and discharge information is always shared with GPs so they know about your care with us.





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How we care for you on a KEMH acute care inpatient unit (cont.)

What happens if I need a specialist doctor while in hospital?

Your hospitalist will request a consult with a specialist if needed. This could be a geriatrician who is an expert in senior care, a cardiologist (heart specialist), etc. The specialist will advise you and your most responsible physician, but they will not take on overall responsibility for all your care needs.

Who's in charge of my care while I'm in hospital?

Your most responsible physician (MRP) in hospital is the doctor who has the best training to meet your overall care needs. While different specialist doctors and even your family doctor may be consulted during your stay, you will always have one MRP in hospital.



In the Emergency Department, an emergency physician is your MRP. This is a doctor with specialist training in emergency care.



On an acute care inpatient unit, your MRP is usually a hospitalist. This is a doctor with specialist training in caring for people who need a hospital stay.



If you are recovering from a planned surgery, your MRP will be the surgeon. Your surgeon is the expert in caring for you following a procedure.



If you are very sick or injured and require care in the Intensive Care Unit, your MRP will be an anaesthetist with specialist critical care training.



Does my GP know I'm in hospital?

Your GP is emailed when you are admitted into hospital.

Most external doctors' offices can access your care information through PEARL, our electronic medical record. When you are discharged, your GP gets a copy of your discharge summary.

This sharing of information is very important to ensure we coordinate any care needs you have, and ensure a smooth transition home. Remember, however, if you are advised to see your

GP after discharge, it's your responsibility to make the appointment.

Your GP is the best person to care for you when you leave hospital. They are, in fact, your MRP in the community.

Produced in partnership with the BHB Public Relations Department

October 2024