

## Neurology

# Adult Epilepsy Nursing Service

The aim of this service is to provide information, advice and support for adults diagnosed with Epilepsy.

### Introduction

The adult epilepsy nurses are part of a NHS team of health care professionals based in the Neuro Department at University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW) NHS Trust. In order to provide a high quality service they have completed specialist training and have extensive knowledge and experience in caring for people with epilepsy.

### The Adult Epilepsy Nurses are:

**Emma Jackson Specialist Nurse**

**Paula Taylor Advanced Nurse Practitioner**

### What age is Adult Epilepsy?

The adult epilepsy services will review people with epilepsy aged 16 years and above.

### How to access the service

#### Newly diagnosed patients

Adult patients who have a definite diagnosis of epilepsy under the care of a NHS Neurosciences consultant working within the UHCW catchments area will, if required, refer the patient directly to the adult epilepsy nurses. On receiving the referral the nurse will send a contact letter inviting the patient to make contact if they would like any information, advice or support. Alternatively, your NHS Obstetrician, Midwife or GP can send a direct referral to the epilepsy nurse but only if you have a definite diagnosis of epilepsy whilst under the care of a NHS Neurosciences Consultant.



## Patient Information

### **Patients new to the area or new to the service**

Patients who have moved into the region or would like to access services at University Hospital in Coventry, should ask their GP to refer them to one of our NHS Consultant Neurologists, Neurosurgeons or Neuro-Rehabilitation Consultants. Once accepted under the neurosciences team, patients can then access the epilepsy nursing service.

### **Services provided**

The epilepsy nurses work Monday to Friday during office hours. If you wish to contact the epilepsy nurse you can leave a message on an answer phone, 024 7696 5221 24 hours a day. Please remember to leave your name, contact details and a brief message for the nurse. Please **do not** send text messages to the telephone line as they are not audible. The nurses aim to respond as soon as practicably possible, excluding weekends and Bank holidays. The epilepsy nurses are hospital based and are at other times busy with clinical duties.

### **Nurse support is offered in a number of ways**

- Telephone consultations
- Nurse-led clinic consultations that are requested by consultant or GP.
- Home visits (in exceptional circumstances only)

### **The epilepsy nurses are able to provide advice on many aspects of living with epilepsy including:**

- Understanding epilepsy
- Seizure triggers and management of seizures
- First aid for epilepsy
- How to use a seizure diary, including video recording.
- The influences of daily life on epilepsy, including driving laws and employment
- Discuss challenges of higher education for a person with epilepsy
- Contraception, pre-conception and pregnancy advice for women with epilepsy
- Dedicated Nurse-led out patients clinics
- Review of specialist epilepsy medications, side effects, management, complex drug changes

## Patient Information

- Training and education in the use of community emergency/rescue medications in the event of cluster, prolonged or series of seizures plus formulation of guidelines.
- Referrals to specialist services as required
- Provide access to a range of information leaflets
- Provide communications links with other healthcare professionals such as GPs, Neurologists, therapists, and voluntary agencies

### **What services the epilepsy nurses are unable to provide**

- **The epilepsy nurses do not provide an emergency service. If your call of an urgent nature then please contact your GP. In the event of an extreme emergency please dial 999.**
- The epilepsy nurses do not change or book consultant out patient's appointments.
- The epilepsy nurses do not offer advice for persons with epilepsy under the age of 16 years.
- The epilepsy nurses are not able to offer services to patients under private clinicians.
- The epilepsy nurses do not accept email enquiries.
- The epilepsy nurses do not offer community epilepsy support for patients not known to their service or provide care plans.
- The epilepsy nurses are not able to provide specialist equipment that may be required in the community setting.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 5128 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email [feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk](mailto:feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk)

Document History	
Department:	Neurology
Contact:	25128
Updated:	April 2022
Review:	April 2025
Version:	9
Reference:	HIC/LFT/671/08