

Patient information

Blue ribbon 'do not transfer' scheme

This leaflet is provided to give you written information about the blue ribbon scheme. This is in addition to the nurses or doctors discussing this with you and your relative or friend (if appropriate).



In times of increased capacity in the hospital, it may be necessary to transfer patients to different wards for the purpose of clinical care.

We recognise that for some patients, especially at the end of life, moving wards should be avoided, to ensure unnecessary disturbance and to maintain continuity of care.

West Suffolk Hospital supports the blue ribbon 'do not transfer' scheme. This scheme has been developed to prevent ward transfers for patients identified as not appropriate to move. If bed capacity pressures in the hospital necessitate the transfer of a patient with a blue ribbon, then a hospital senior manager should review this and discuss this with you and your relative or friend (if appropriate).

The nurses and doctors looking after your relative or friend feel that a ward move should be avoided. This will not prevent your relative or friend being moved on the ward, if there is a more suitable area available such as a side room, if you have requested it. Unfortunately it is not always possible for patients to be nursed in side rooms however we will make every effort to facilitate this where possible.

The blue ribbon symbol may be placed by the bedside and is also recorded on the patient's electronic records to alert staff that a ward transfer should be avoided.

If you require any additional information or you would like to ask any questions please do not hesitate to speak to the nurses or doctors on the ward.

The blue ribbon 'do not transfer scheme' was developed in the Isle of Wight NHS Trust and have given us permission to use it in our hospital.

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