

Spinal cord injury

Support available when coming to hospital



One + all | we care

About this leaflet

Having a spinal cord injury (SCI) is complex and can be life-changing. Secondary complications are common and this may mean at some point an admission to hospital is necessary.

As a patient with an SCI, you understand how vital it is to be listened to and to work in partnership with our staff. It may also be necessary to liaise with professionals and specialists at other spinal injury units.

The Spinal Patient Innovation Network Experience Service (SPINES) group has developed this leaflet to inform you of the assistance available to you whilst you are visiting for an appointment or if you are an inpatient.

Patient Care Hospital Passport

To help support the most appropriate and safe healthcare, and to help minimise the risks, RCHT has developed a Patient Care Hospital Passport. This personalised passport outlines the specific health issues and care you need and allows you to inform our staff of the important aspects of your injury and care requirements.

Patient Flag

Let us know you have an SCI and we'll give you an electronic flag which will alert us should you come into hospital.

Contact us by:

Email: rch-tr.SGAdults@nhs.net

Tel: 01872 255741

Wheelchair Service

The Wheelchair Service supports adults and children who require a standard or specialist wheelchair, living in Cornwall or the Isles of Scilly. We assess people with long term mobility needs who require a wheelchair for longer than a period of 6 months.

All equipment is provided on a long term loan basis for as long as your clinical need requires it. If you need a wheelchair, a GP or other health professional involved in your care can make a referral. All referrals should be made through Millbrook Healthcare:

Tel: 0300 3030 123

Safer moving and handling of SCI

Careful manual handling, positioning and turning on every occasion can significantly help to reduce pain and discomfort for our patients. RCHT are committed to providing a high standard of quality care through ongoing education and staff training programmes.

Patients attending RCHT with an SCI may be moved and handled by multidisciplinary teams allowing for appropriate use of the expertise, equipment and a mix of health care professionals. This approach ensures an organised division of handling knowledge, working towards a common goal where there is a group responsibility. Appropriate manual handling equipment for safe transfer is available throughout RCHT such as hoists, slide sheets / Patslide, Hovermatt, Beasy boards etc.

The Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre, Salisbury

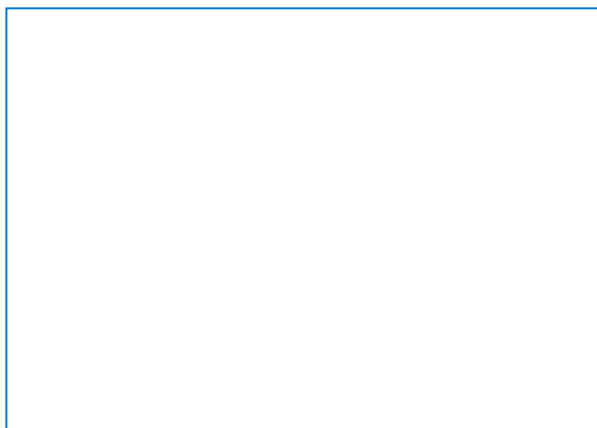
SPINES works together with the spinal injuries unit at Salisbury NHS Trust to enable non-specialist health professionals to gain knowledge that will not only benefit you, but also patients with SCI in the future.

We fully understand that disruptions to regular normal care routines should be kept to a minimum so you can feel confident in the care you are receiving.

Spinal Injuries Association

The Spinal Injuries Association helps spinal cord injured people lead fulfilled lives. We are the expert voice and leading source of information, advice, advocacy and campaigning for people with spinal cord injury. The team includes regional SCI Nurse Specialists and Support Network Officers who can provide advice and support to the patient, their family and the Healthcare Professionals involved in their care.

My Important Key Contacts



Local Support

The Cornwall Spinal Cord Injury Group

Informal, supportive and educational group for those affected by spinal cord injury, run by NHS neurological rehab nurses.

Tel: 01209 881656

E-mail: neurorehab@pch-cic.nhs.uk

Neurology Care Advisory Service

Helps people with neurological conditions/ their relatives and carers by providing signposting, advice and support.

Tel: 01209 318106

Email: cpn-tr.neurorehab@nhs.net

Peninsula Trauma Network

Website brings together all those responsible for treating patients who have undergone major trauma incidents across Devon and Cornwall, including the Isles of Scilly

www.peninsulatraumanetwork.nhs.uk/about-us

Salisbury Spinal Centre Outpatient Team

Tel: 01722 429291

Email: sft.spinalopnurses@nhs.net

Spinal Injuries Association (SIA)

Advice Line: 0800 980 0501

Email: sia@spinal.co.uk

Website: www.spinal.co.uk



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If you would like this leaflet in large print, braille, audio version or in another language, please contact the General Office on 01872 252690

