

Huntington's Disease Service

Welcome to the Huntingtons Disease Service at Bloomfield Hospital

Bloomfield's Huntingtons Disease Service is a specialist mental health service specialising in the provision of mental health treatment and care for those with a diagnosis of Huntingtons Disease.

The Huntingtons Disease Service at Bloomfield provides a research based assessment service performed by a specialist inter-disciplinary team. An inter-disciplinary approach creates a comprehensive individualised care pathway which identifies a specific care plan involving assessment, planning and implementation which is unique to each individual.

Assessment is provided at any stage of the disease, including those who present with behaviour that challenges as well as individuals requiring involuntary admission.

In addition to the Huntingtons Disease Outpatient Clinic and the Huntingtons Disease Inpatient Assessment Programme, Bloomfield Hospital also provides a Continuing Care Programme for individuals with a diagnosis of Huntington's disease. For individuals who wish to remain at Bloomfield Hospital palliative care can also be arranged if required.



Referrals

Referrals to Bloomfield Hospital are accepted nationally and from Northern Ireland and we will support local services with patients who:

- Have significant therapeutic needs
- Who would benefit from family centred interventions
- Behave in a highly challenging way
- Display levels of aggression or agitation.
- Present with psychiatric symptoms of depression or anxiety

Acute psychiatric conditions will require stabilization prior to transfer to our programmes.

A referral form can be downloaded from our website www.bloomfield.ie or by contacting Bloomfield Hospital at **01 4950021**

Referral Process

The initial step is to complete a referral form which then can be posted or faxed to Bloomfield Hospital.

There is a short risk assessment on the referral form which also requires to be completed. In addition to the referral form please enclose any psychiatric, neurology and/or forensic reports, assessments, imaging results and relevant information including funding sources.

Triage

Following receipt of referral form and confirmation of funding an initial screening will be completed by the members of the clinical team. This screening will be performed at the Huntingtons Disease Clinic and may identify priority areas which will be further explored on admission to our unit. Pertinent reports and relevant information will be reported back to the referrer.



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INDIVIDUALISED
INTER-DISCIPLINARY
CARE PATHWAY**

On Admission

The inter-disciplinary assessment is based around the UHDRS (Unified Huntington's Disease Rating Scale). The UHDRS is a clinical rating scale which assesses four domains of performance in Huntingtons Disease; motor function, cognitive function, behaviour and functional capacity.

Neuropsychiatric, neuropsychological, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, social work, nursing and dietetic assessments are also completed. The individual's specific needs and strengths in conjunction with clinical assessment, forms the framework to a comprehensive individualised inter-disciplinary care pathway.

Our Care Pathway

Following an initial screening at our outpatient clinic the next step in the clinical approach to the individual's care will be determined.

Admission to our Huntingtons Disease Assessment Programme will see the commencement of an assessment period of sixteen weeks. On completion of the sixteen week assessment a comprehensive individualised report summarising treatment recommendations is created and sent to the referrer.

The person centred pathway includes an agreed discharged plan which takes into account the views of the patient, family and other caregivers.

OUR CARE PATHWAY AIMS TO ENHANCE AN INDIVIDUAL'S QUALITY OF LIFE



Our Inter-Disciplinary Team (IDT)

Our Inter-Disciplinary Team (IDT) is based on-site at Bloomfield Hospital and consists of:

Consultant Psychiatrists
Medical Officer
Senior Neuropsychologist
Senior Physiotherapist
Senior Social Worker

Psychiatric Nurses
Health Care Assistants
Occupational Therapists
Clinical Nurse Managers
Pharmacist

Assessments by Neurology and Speech and Language Service will be facilitated.

The Need for IDT Intervention

Our Care Pathway aims to enhance an individual's quality of life using inter-disciplinary interventions to facilitate optimal functioning. We aim to optimise physical health with the services of our Medical Officer, Physiotherapist and Occupational therapist .

Neuropsychological interventions aim to optimise residual cognitive and psychological strengths and to reduce behavioural disturbances using a neurobehavioural approach.

Through Specialist Nursing assessment and care planning an individualised holistic approach is provided incorporating activities of daily living with cognitive and mental health needs.

The Clinical Nurse Manager in association with Senior Social Worker provides both formal and informal therapeutic family support and education throughout their journey.

Bloomfield Hospital

Bloomfield Hospital is a service of Bloomfield Health Services and is an independent not for profit mental healthcare provider registered as an approved centre with the Mental Health Commission. It commenced its service provision in 1812 and was originally located in Donnybrook Dublin 4 until 2005 when it moved to its current location which provides a state of the art environment for the care and treatment of its patients. Bloomfield Health Services is owned by the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and is based on their ethos and principles.

Bloomfield Hospital specialises in the provision of mental health treatment and care to adults with complex mental health issues associated with Neuropsychiatric Disorders, Dementia, Serious and Enduring Mental Health Disorders in addition to Mental Health treatment and care to Older Persons (Psychiatry of Old Age). Referrals to Bloomfield Hospital are accepted nationally. While providing excellence in clinical treatment and care to patients and their families, we are committed to training healthcare professionals. We are also committed to conducting clinical research designed to enhance treatment programmes for the continued improvement of outcomes for patients and the overall enhancement of their quality of life. Bloomfield Hospital is a teaching hospital affiliated with Trinity College Dublin.



Our Principles

Rooted in our Quaker ethos and running through everything we strive to achieve in Bloomfield, our core principles are:

Integrity, Simplicity, Community, Equality, Peace

Our Vision & Purpose

Our vision and purpose is to provide a 'caring community' where the quality of life of all our patients and residents, their family members and friends, our care teams and guests/visitors will be enriched through mutual respect and empathy for one another. We strive to achieve this by valuing the dignity, privacy, needs, wisdom and individual faith/beliefs of each person through a policy of open communication among all members of our community.