Acute Medical Unit (AMU)
What is the Acute Medical Unit?

The Acute Medical Unit provides a high quality rapid assessment service for patients with acute medical and surgical problems.

You will either be referred to the unit by your GP or via the A&E department.

It is important to remember that you have come here for an assessment and possible investigations but you will not necessarily be admitted to hospital.

The Acute Medical Unit is also known as the AMU.

What happens when I come to the unit?

On your arrival to the unit you will be allocated a nurse and a health care assistant who will begin the assessment process. You will have your blood pressure, heart rate and temperature recorded. Blood tests, an electrocardiograph (ECG) and blood sugar test will also be taken if appropriate.

You will then be assessed by a doctor who will organise any further investigations if necessary. These may include X-rays and scans. Due to the high demands for investigations we can only estimate times, however we will endeavour to keep you informed of appointment times once the AMU coordinator is informed by radiology. You will also be given a wrist band as a means to identify patients and alert members of staff of any allergies you may have.
You will be kept informed of the investigations that are being ordered for you; it may not be possible to do them all on the day you arrive.

Once you have had an initial assessment a senior doctor will review your results and decide whether you need to be admitted to hospital.

BSUH Trust staff maintain a strict policy relating to confidential information. Under no circumstances will information regarding patient’s test results, diagnosis or care be discussed over the telephone without the patient’s consent. If the patient is incapacitated then a doctor or nurse will discuss these issues face to face with the next of kin / carer or patient advocate only.

Please do not ask the AMU staff for confidential information over the telephone.

What if I need to stay in the unit?

You may need to stay in the unit overnight, in which case your family and friends may bring you a bag with toiletries and night clothes which can be stored in individual bedside lockers. Please don’t keep large quantities of money with you. If you do have anything that is valuable please ask a member of staff to lock it in the safe. If you wish to keep valuable items with you we will ask you to sign a disclaimer.

Your family may visit between the hours of 1pm and 7pm. Visiting outside these hours may be possible at the discretion of the nurse in charge so please ask.
Please ask your family to nominate one person as contact and direct all enquiries through them.

We would be extremely grateful if relatives and friends don’t ring the unit before 11am as ward rounds are in place with senior consultants to discuss patient care and forward planning.

What if I need to be admitted to hospital?

Once the decision to admit you has been made, you will be transferred to an appropriate ward as soon as one is available and your care handed over to the staff on the ward. We will try to inform relatives where possible but advise that if your relatives are coming to visit you they ring the unit first to check you are still here. Placements to ward areas can happen very quickly once the beds in the wards are made available for you. The AMU staff will be notified by the coordinator when these beds are available. You may meet the Integrated Discharge Team while you are in the unit. This is because we start planning for your safe discharge while you are with us.

What happens if I am discharged from the AMU?

You will be discharged when the medical staff are satisfied that you are medically fit. You will have some prior warning of this in order to notify relatives and plan transport home. If you need to wait for medication or transport we will arrange for you to wait in comfort in the Discharge Lounge. This is on the ground floor of the Barry Building. We can also organise for you to return for your medication the following day. This is a reduced service on
the weekends, however we do have limited stock of pre-packaged medications for you. Specialised medication will require late collection. All medications issued by the trust are free of charge.

Your GP will be notified of your stay in hospital and any appointments will be arranged for you. This will be in the form of a discharge letter.

(Please note that the visiting times on the general wards are different: 3pm – 5pm and 7pm – 8.30pm).

Please limit visitors to two at a time.

We want your stay to be as comfortable as possible and would appreciate any comments or concerns you may have. Please direct these to the nurse in charge in the first instance. We have comment cards on the entrance to the AMU and we welcome your feedback as a positive experience so that we can be pro-active and adapt our service based on your needs.

Your diet requirements will be written with your name and name of nurse on every bed side. Meal times are 8.30am, 12.30pm and 5.30pm. Snack boxes can be arranged 24 hours a day.
Further Information

Royal Sussex County Hospital
Eastern Road
Brighton BN2 5BE
+44 (0)1273 696955
www-bsuh.nhs.uk
nelson-barbon@bsuh.nhs.uk

AMU contact
01273 696955 Ext. 4608

A&E reception
01273 696955 Ext. 4259

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)
01273 696955 Ext. 4029 / 4588

Ward Manager
Nelson Barbon  Bleep no. 8230

Unit Matron
Chris Ashcroft  Bleep no. 8430

Other useful contacts

NHS Direct
www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk  0845 4647

Age Concern
01273 720 603 Fax: 01273 777 852
e-mail: info@ageconcern-bhp.org.uk
If you do not understand this leaflet, we can arrange for an interpreter.

إذا كنت لا تستطيع فهم محتويات هذه النشرة فبإمكاننا عمل الترتيبات لتوفير مترجم شفوي لك.

এই প্রচারপুস্তকটি যদি আপনি বুঝতে না পারেন, তবে আপনার জন্য আমরা একজন অনুবাদকের ব্যবস্থা করে দিতে পারি

如你不明白本单张的内容，我們可安排口譯員服務。

如你不明白本传单的内容，我们可安排口译员服务。

اگر مندرجات این جزوه را نمی فهمید، ما می توانیم مترجم در ابتدارتان بکنیم.

Jeśli masz trudności w zrozumieniu tej ulotki, możemy zorganizować tłumacza.

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Disclaimer
The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is in no way intended to replace professional clinical advice by a qualified practitioner.

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