

Is this the same as the Liverpool Care Pathway?

No. The Liverpool Care Pathway helps ward teams to provide the very best care to patients in the last hours to days of life.

The AMBER care bundle supports ward teams with earlier decision making and better communication when it is uncertain whether a patient may recover.

The AMBER care bundle aims to ensure that patients and their families are involved as much as they would like to be in decisions about their care.

It aims to deliver the high standards of care that you should expect from Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

If you have any further questions about the AMBER care bundle, or would like more information, you can discuss this with your nominated ward nurse.

Your nurse is:

.....

Ward telephone number.....

Alternatively, you can discuss the AMBER care bundle with the ward Sister or Charge Nurse, or your Consultant.



Assessment
Management
Best Practice
Engagement
Recovery Uncertain

Information for patients and their families

What is the AMBER Care Bundle?

At the Royal Derby aim to provide the highest standards of care for you and your family. It is important that you are involved with decisions about your care as much as you would like to be.

The AMBER care bundle is used for patients who are unstable and may be approaching the end of their life. It helps the doctors and nurses recognise when patients may not respond as well as they hoped to medical treatment. Therefore their recovery may be uncertain and their condition may deteriorate further.

The AMBER care bundle encourages regular review of a patients care and ensures that patients, or with their permission, their families are involved in decisions about their care. This may be decisions about treatment, or discussions about what they would like to happen in the future.

What are the benefits of AMBER to patients?

The AMBER care bundle will improve decision making and communication between patients and their families and the team providing their care.

AMBER provides the opportunity for patients to be actively involved with discussions about their treatment. As patients are monitored very closely the team are able to respond quickly to any changes in patient condition and will ensure that patient's wishes and preferences are always taken into consideration.

What does being an AMBER patient mean?

The ward team, including doctors and nurses will discuss as a team whether a patient should be supported with the AMBER care bundle. They will agree the best treatment plan and will discuss this with the patient and with their families if they wish.

The AMBER care bundle makes sure that the ward team reviews an AMBER patient's individual treatment plan every day. It makes sure that they are closely monitored and are kept up to date with any changes.

AMBER patients may respond well to treatment and improve. Often however a patient's condition can deteriorate further.

What happens if patients improve?

If a patient improves and recovers they may wish to go home or to another place of care. The team will discuss this and advise on any help that may be needed on discharge. This is an opportunity to talk about future care and preferences or wishes should health worsen again. The ward team will support patients and their families with these discussions as much as desired.

What happens when patients don't respond to treatment and become worse?

The ward team will explain this and discuss any other possible treatments that may be appropriate. They will also talk about other options and about any future care wishes and plans. Medical treatment is only one part of care and it is important that patients are able to discuss everything that is important to them. With a patient's permission, the team can discuss plans with their families as well.

When patients go home are their GP & District Nurse informed that they have been an AMBER patient?

Yes. The ward team will inform a patient's GP about their admission. With permission, the ward team will share information about any future care preferences. This is important as it will help to ensure all health professionals continue to meet a patients needs when they return home.

GP's can talk more to you about maintaining preferences for care once home.

If a patient is re-admitted to hospital will they always be an AMBER patient?

No, not necessarily. The decision as to whether a patient is AMBER will be made on each admission depending on their current condition. Discussing this and any preferences for care will always remain important.