

Clinical Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

ANIMAL ASSISTED INTERVENTION FOR A600 PATIENTS

SETTING	Bristol Royal Infirmary Specifically for A600 General Intensive Care
FOR	To provide guidance to all clinical staff on A600
PATIENTS	For the adult patients on A600 receiving animal Therapy

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

This is a guide for all staff who are involved with the care of patients having organised visits from a trained Pets as Therapy (PAT) dog and volunteer.

- The nurse in charge, (NIC) must be involved in the organising /overseeing of the visit.
- All volunteers must:
 - Have completed the Trust volunteer recruitment process
 - Have attended Trust corporate induction
 - Be registered with the PAT charity as a volunteer
- All volunteers must be accompanied/supervised at all times and identifiable as a PAT volunteers through visible display of Trust ID
- All dogs must be on a lead at all times. No food/treats to be given to dogs at any time.
- All dogs must be identifiable as PAT

Who is eligible for a visit from a therapy dog?

Patients must be:

- Awake
- Free from acute delirium. Any patient with longer standing diagnosis of dementia may be appropriate. Discuss with NIC.
- Able to consent / or have familial consent before visit. (please document on a nursing note)
- Be free from any confirmed animal based allergy.
- Have no identified fear of dogs.
- Confirmed as free from any high risk infections/new onset infection.

Who cannot have a visit from a therapy dog?

Contraindicated for animal therapy are:

- Patients in negative pressure side rooms. For infection reasons or immunocompromised.
- Patients with acute delirium.(agitated, distressed)
- Patients without consent for visit.
- Patients with known diarrhoea/vomiting.

Visits will be for a maximum of 10 minutes per patient. Visits to bedsides should be as pre-planned as possible. Dogs can become overloaded with stimulation and become exhausted therefore care must be taken to prevent this from occurring (They may be visiting many places in a day).

Please discuss with the NIC and volunteer if there is a special request.

Best practice requires **documentation** of visit. Recording which dog, which patient (name and Trust number) date and time.

Make sure patients hands are washed before and after visit.

Lower patients bed as to allow access of the dog at side of bed.

Cover bed in an Inco pad or additional bed sheet if dog needs to alight/touch bed(dispose of protection directly after)

Make sure access to the patient is clear of objects such as tables, TVs and other equipment not in use. Minimise trip hazards for animals and volunteers.

Patients' own dogs/pets are not permitted onto the unit unless specific arrangements have been made with the senior sister/Charge nurse on duty.

Contacts;

- Ward Clerk A600
- Senior Staff A600
- Voluntary Services Manager
- Lead Dementia Practitioner

RELATED DOCUMENTS

RCN guidelines <https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pub-007925?fbclid=IwAR0irSTZxZCVGvaIIXa3lI5ioMLm4khrxOtoC0JBaNPkAnKqRcEQ4dbZxhl>

NICE guidance [https://www.evidence.nhs.uk/search?om=\[{"ety":\["Guidance"\]}\]&q=animal+assisted+therapy](https://www.evidence.nhs.uk/search?om=[{)

Pets as Therapy Policies https://petsastherapy.org/what-we-do/faqs-2/#policies_1
UH Bristol Trust Guidelines and National Guidelines are in the process of being written Nov 2019

SAFETY

Any safety concerns or queries please seek NIC A600 [REDACTED]

QUERIES

As above