

Intermediate Care and the Discharge Medicines Service

Leeds Virtual Ward (Frailty)

The Leeds Virtual Ward (Frailty) service is a collaboration between NHS organisations in the city (community services, primary and secondary care), Leeds City Council Adult Social Care and the Leeds Oak Alliance (Third Sector consortium) which has been citywide since September 2020. The virtual ward provides rapid assessment and wrap-around care to people living with frailty in their own home who become suddenly unwell and would normally be admitted to hospital or are already under the care of Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and whose needs can be safely managed at home.

For a person with moderate or severe frailty, the virtual ward improves outcomes and experience by reducing disruption to people's lives including their carers. The virtual ward provides an alternative to hospital admission as well as supporting a speedier discharge, reducing the risk of hospital acquired adverse events including deconditioning by working alongside and communicating with existing providers if the person already receives homecare or other support in the home.

The core team for the virtual ward (frailty) which includes a consultant geriatrician, community matrons, pharmacist and pharmacy technician, have a daily virtual multidisciplinary team (MDT) meeting to review the caseload of patients. Within this meeting, treatment plans and planned discharges of patients from the service are agreed. Whilst the MDT is virtual the care of people on the ward is face to face in their own homes.

The pharmacy team working on the virtual ward conduct medication reviews and ensure medication changes for patients are actioned by communicating with patients, their families/carers, GP practice and community pharmacy. For patients with compliance aids at home, actioning urgent medication changes rapidly can be tricky so the team try to manage these as best they can by liaising with the patient's usual pharmacy and GP practice to ensure urgent changes are made in order for the patient to remain safely at home (examples of this include acute kidney injury where nephrotoxic medicines such as diuretics may need removing if they cannot be easily identified). To support safe transfer of care on discharge from the virtual ward, the pharmacy team provide a discharge summary to the patient's GP and to their community pharmacy (if they have a compliance aid) with details of any medication changes so they can update their records appropriately and to ensure the patient receives a continued supply of their current medicines. The pharmacy team will also now be referring patients to their community pharmacy for the discharge medicines service (DMS). If you have any questions, you can contact the virtual ward pharmacy team via email:

Leedscg.vwpharmacyteam@nhs.net

Please [click here](#) for the supporting leaflet for health and care professionals with further details about the service.

Community Care Beds

Community care beds (CCBs) are used as step-up facilities from Primary Care or step-down facilities from secondary care for people who need additional assessment or recovery support that cannot easily be provided in their own home. CCBs are used for rehabilitation and/or assessment of on-going care needs including social worker assessment and consist of residential and nursing beds. Patients must be over 65 year old without severe cognition issues to be accepted into a CCB. CCBs are supported by a multidisciplinary team including nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, GPs, geriatricians and social workers. There is a small pharmacy technician team for the CCBs but pharmacist support is variable and is provided by GP practice or Primary Care Network pharmacists. There are approximately 230 CCBs located in different parts of Leeds and they are looked after by different providers. The current locations/ providers are as follows:

CCB Provider	CCB Location
Leeds City Council/ Adult Social Care	South Leeds Recovery Hub- Beeston North West Recovery Hub- Yeadon East Leeds Recovery Hub- Seacroft
Four Seasons	Green Lane- Armley Harrogate Lodge- Chapel Allerton
Villa Care	Bilberry and Heather Units- Wharfedale Hospital

The CCB pharmacy technician team have been sending discharge letters for some patients e.g. those on compliance aids to community pharmacies for some time but will now also be referring patients for DMS.