

General Acute and Frailty Virtual Ward Referral Guide

What is a virtual ward?

Virtual wards provide safe and convenient care for patients at home, and in care homes, rather than in hospital. This leads to quicker recovery times and reduces disruption to patients' lives.

Can I refer?

Do you have a patient that can be 'stepped up' or 'stepped down'?

STEP UP - Are you referring:

- As Community Rapid Intervention Service?
- As a GP?
- As a community-based service?

- Patient is 18 years old and over
- In need of short term treatment for up to 14 days. These patients would have been in an acute hospital bed
- Patient is presenting with sub-acute infections and is clinically unstable; or at risk of deterioration
- Patient is demonstrating an exacerbation/flare up of their co-morbidity(ities)/long term condition/(s)
- Patient is starting to decompensate and showing early signs and the onset of delirium
- Patient declining inpatient care – as a safe alternative.

STEP DOWN - Are you referring from:

- An Acute Trust Ward or Portal

- Patient is 18 years old and over
- Is stable but needs continued treatment (IV and oral) that can be delivered at home and not in an acute hospital bed
- Needs continued vital signs monitoring and bloods which can be managed on a virtual ward remotely or face to face
- Patients improving clinically but requiring further monitoring
- Improving infection/inflammatory markers that need monitoring
- Acute on chronic conditions on improving trend
- Patients requiring optimisation of their treatment, e.g. medications titration or other decisions linked to defined change in clinical condition.

Please note, the referral must be made by the clinician who has seen the patient; and they must be clear about their assessment and suitability to be cared for on the virtual ward. For more information about the referral process, please visit:

www.staffsstokeics.org.uk/your-health-and-care/local-hospitals-and-trusts/virtual-wards

Further information



If you'd like to find out more about virtual wards please email:
virtualwardenquiries@mpft.nhs.uk or scan the QR code.

