

11 East Ward – redecorated isolation side-rooms

Some patients attending 11 East ward are attending in order to undergo radioactive isotope therapy, which means that the patients have to be isolated in specific rooms with lead shielding. There are five of these rooms on the ward but two of them (rooms 9 and 10) are not as nice as the others. Rooms 9 and 10 have only one window each and in room 9 that window is in front of a wide concrete pillar on the balcony. This makes these rooms much darker and dreary in contrast to the others.

Some of the treatments are given on a cycle and so patients are admitted 3 or 4 times over a period of 9 – 12 months. Some of these patients had made comments about rooms 9 and 10 not being as nice and not wanting to go back to rooms 9 or 10 for future treatments because they found the space a bit depressing.

With the help of a charity, The Butterfly Trust, and the Royal Free Charity, the 11 East ward Matron obtained funding and arranged for rooms 9 and 10 to be decorated with 'wall glamour'. The rooms now have two lovely new murals (countryside and seaside) on the walls that help to brighten them up but also give a sense of relaxation to the patients. The work has been very well received by the oncology and haematology patients attending the ward.