

THE USE OF DRUG DETECTION DOGS IN THE STATE HOSPITAL

The State Hospital has a duty to provide a safe living and working environment for patients, staff, volunteers and visitors.

To help us to protect everyone within the Hospital we have in place a number of security measures which include:

- Searching personal belongings.
- Searching individuals by undertaking a 'rubdown' search.
- Use of metal detectors (similar to those in use at an airport).
- Use of a passive drug detection dog.

Dogs used in the detection of drugs at the Hospital are trained to detect the smell of drugs on a person and any items in their possession. They are kept on a lead at all times and will not bark at visitors. Visitors will be asked to walk past the dog. If the dog detects the scent of illegal substances, it is trained to sit quietly next to the visitor. They may then be subject to further searches.

If the dog indicates that drugs may be present the visitor will be asked to have rub down search which may include additional elements such as, the removal of footwear or a look inside the mouth or search of their hair. If no drugs are found, the visitor may be offered a restricted visit where any items for the patient will be left with security and taken to the ward following the visit. There will also be a member of staff present throughout the visit to ensure nothing is passed to the patient. If the ward is unable to facilitate the special visit, then the visit will be cancelled.

If drugs are found, the police will be called. Anyone attempting to smuggle drugs into the Hospital may be denied access in the future.

If the dog does not detect the smell of drugs the visit will proceed as normal.



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