

Information Jewish Wings

Introduction

This folder is for patients and loved ones of patients who have been admitted to the Jewish wings of the Downstairs Clinic (*Kliniek Beneden*) and the Jewish wings of the Upstairs Clinic (*Kliniek Beneden*) of Amstelland Hospital. These are the wards where Jewish patients who live their lives in (full) accordance with Jewish laws and customs are admitted as well as non-Jewish patients with or without religious beliefs.

When being admitted to the Jewish wards, you not only receive information about the special customs in this ward through this folder, but also through a conversation with one of our Jewish Affairs assistants. You can always put any questions you may have to one of our Jewish Affairs assistants.

Customs in the Jewish Wings

There is a special atmosphere in the Jewish Wings and Jewish rituals are observed. This means that the Sabbath and Jewish festivities are celebrated and kosher meals are served. Men and women are nursed in separate wards. Needless to say, the medical treatment of patients and their nursing always takes precedence.

Mezuzah

A small tube-shaped container is fitted to all doorposts of the Jewish wards. This container is the Mezuzah, which is affixed to doorposts in Jewish homes. Each container has the same contents, namely a tiny scroll of parchment bearing text from the Old Testament. The Mezuzah is said to protect the occupants of the room.

Nutrition

Special attention is given to food in the Jewish Wings. The meals served are kosher; this means that the food is permitted in accordance with Jewish customs. Examples include cereals, fruit, vegetables, tea, coffee and eggs. Most, though not all, types of fish and meat are also kosher. For instance, beef is kosher, while pork is not.

Another aspect is that milk and meat products are served on separate tableware and are eaten separately. The standard assortment for breakfast and lunch includes

milk products (e.g. cheese), salads, sweet sandwich spreads and porridge. Lunch also regularly includes a boiled egg. This means that, in principle, no meat is served at breakfast or lunch, although alternatives can be discussed with the dietary assistant.

A festive meal is served at the start of the Sabbath (day of rest) and during some Jewish holidays. On days such as these you can usually also expect a festive snack.

You are allowed to bring soft drinks, fruit and sweets into the Jewish Wings. Various types of kosher biscuits are sold at the hospital's shop in the hall. For reasons relating to the above-mentioned rules, we ask you not take home cooked meals and not to take tableware from the shop back to the wards. You can ask for disposable tableware in the shop.

Sabbath

The Jewish faith regards the Sabbath as a day of rest. It starts on Friday, some time before sunset, and ends on Saturday once darkness is complete. The exact times at which the Sabbath starts and ends are indicated in the hall of the Jewish Wing upstairs. The Sabbath is observed in the Jewish Wings every week.

The Sabbath starts with the lighting of two candles; in the Jewish Wings we do this by lighting two electric candles.

For those patients who are interested in receiving a blessing (kiddush) over their cup of wine or grape juice, a volunteer will be able to do so every Friday evening or Saturday morning.

Synagogue services

Synagogue services are held on Friday evening, Saturday morning and Saturday evening in the Meeting Room. Everyone is welcome to attend a synagogue service, whether in full or in part. Needless to say, patients from the Jewish Wings are also welcome to attend the ecumenical service on Sunday morning, which takes place every first Sunday of each month. Volunteers are willing to help you get to the services.

Special Sabbath route

Signs have been installed in the hospital that follow a special 'Sabbath route', one that leads from the main entrance to the Downstairs Clinic (*Kliniek Beneden*). The route is for people who do not want to make use of electricity (e.g. opening electronic doors) during the Sabbath and Jewish holidays.

Jewish holidays and days of mourning

Jewish holidays are celebrated on the Jewish wards. You will be informed about these in advance.

A list of the holidays can be found on www.ziekenhuisamstelland.nl/en. The exact dates alter each year.

Discharge

There will be no planned admissions on the Sabbath or on Jewish holidays and, at their request, Jewish patients will not be discharged from the hospital on these days.

Accessibility of Jewish Affairs

If you have any questions, you can call Jewish Affairs at the following times on +31 (0)20-755 6319:

- Monday to Thursday: 09:00-15:00 hours
- Friday: 09:00-13:00 hours
- Sunday: 09:00- 11:00 hours

At other times Jewish Affairs can be reached for urgent matters on the general hospital telephone number, +31 (0)20-755 7000.