

The Nowgen Centre: A Venue for Patient Support Groups

Nowgen, A Centre for Genetics in Healthcare, was established in 2002 as one of six Genetics Knowledge Parks, funded by the UK Departments of Health and Trade & Industry. We were created to conduct a wide range of activities to address the challenges of genetic medicine in the 21st century, as set out in the Government's White Paper: *Our Inheritance, Our Future*. During our first phase of operation, Nowgen has become well known for our activities in the arenas of public and patient engagement; service innovation; patient centred applied health services research, and delivery of professional training.

From 2008 we have continued to operate with a portfolio of funding from the Nowgen Partners, grant funding bodies, and from income generating events.

One way that Nowgen is keen to continue to support patients with genetic conditions and their families is by providing a venue for patient support group meetings.

The Nowgen Centre...

- Is next to the Manchester Royal Infirmary.
- Has various meeting rooms to suit different events.
- Is next to the hospital car park; with good public transport links.

How can we help?

We have a busy programme of events, meetings and courses running in the Nowgen Centre. However, when the Centre is not being used for other activities, we are able to make the facilities available to patient support groups at minimal cost.

We will do our best to meet your needs; talk to our Events Team about your plans and we will help to set up the venue in the most suitable way. You may be able to borrow AV equipment from us if you arrange and agree this in advance, and agree to underwrite any losses or breakages.

What's the deal?

Generally, the Centre is heavily booked 8am - 5pm Monday to Friday, so it will usually not be possible to hold support group meetings during these times. However, please contact the Events Team to check, in case you plan to hold your event during a particularly quiet time.

If you are holding your meeting in the evening (5pm onwards) or at weekends, please contact the Events Team to book the Centre. For meetings at these times (out of hours) you will just have to pay for costs that Nowgen itself incurs: reception cover (the hourly charge is £15.70 Mon - Sat and £21.00 on a Sunday) and catering. If you want any food or drink, we would be happy to give you a quote. Under special circumstances, you may be able to arrange your own catering, but please check with us so that we may explain in full the conditions for this use and what facilities we have available.

As a condition of use, we ask that you clean up after your event and leave the venue in a good condition. We have to charge you for any breakages or when extra cleaning is required.

How do I book?

1. Aim to book your event at least 3 months in advance for out of hours meetings. For meeting during working hours, please contact the Events Team to discuss availability.
2. Contact Nowgen's Events Team (email bookings@nowgen.org.uk or phone 0161 276 5956) to enquire about room availability, and explain that you are booking on behalf of a patient support group.
3. Complete the forms from the Nowgen Event's Team, explaining which rooms are required and any catering or AV requirements.
4. Make sure you receive confirmation of your booking.
5. If there are any charges, Nowgen will invoice you after the event.