

Cardiology

Introduction

The Covid pandemic has had a significant impact on the NHS ability to provide routine elective services. We recognise that patients are waiting longer than we would all like and it is not always possible to identify when

treatment will take place. This document provides you with information on how you are able to support yourself while waiting to attend the hospital. The guidance has been written by clinicians who are responsible for your care

Cardiology is – a medical speciality that deals with any problems arising from the heart. Broadly speaking this could mean problems with:

- Heart muscle (e.g heart failure)
- Heart Rhythm (e.g. arrhythmias)
- Heart valves (e.g. valvular heart disease)
- Heart arteries (e.g. angina or heart attacks)

This complex busy service is run by a friendly experienced team of, junior / middle grade doctors, hospital based / community nurses, managers, secretaries and consultant cardiologists who each specialise in a particular area of expertise

Guidance for Patients

Services we provide include:

Inpatient services:

We run our inpatient cardiology service from ACCU ward and high care areas where we look after patients presenting with acute heart problems (e.g. heart failure or acute heart attacks). Our in-patients are served by a wide variety of advanced services including cardiac imaging, cardiac catheterisation, pacemakers insertions, pacemaker analysis as well as multidisciplinary team meetings to ensure optimal patients' outcomes.

The department liaises closely with nearby tertiary cardiac centres to manage patients who require more advanced cardiac interventions.

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Outpatient services:

- We run a variety of outpatient clinics including specialist clinics for heart failure, arrhythmias, rapid access chest pain clinic as well as general cardiology clinics
- Our cardiorespiratory department is extremely advanced and offers specialist services e.g. advanced cardiac imaging, pacemaker clinics as well as a variety of outpatient diagnostic tests for our patients (e.g. heart monitors & sleep studies)
- We run a state-of-the-art cardiac CT service that delineates the heart artery anatomy and allows accurate diagnosis and management planning for our patients. We are aiming to start our cardiac MRI imaging service in the near future.
- Our Cardiac Cath lab allows us to perform complex procedures (e.g. cardiac catheterization, pacemaker implantation)
- We offer daily advice to GPs to answer queries relating to our mutual patients

What should I do if my Heart health is deteriorating?

Guidance for Patients

If your cardiac symptoms are deteriorating or you are developing new cardiac symptoms, you need to get in touch either through your GP surgery, your specialist cardiac nursing team or by presenting to AE if your symptoms are debilitating or deteriorating rapidly.

Elective cardioversion patients:

You can contact the cardiac nursing team following your pre assessment appointment with any queries or concerns.

Following your procedure patients are advised to contact us if you feel you have returned to your abnormal rhythm or have any concerns. We will advise on whether you need to contact your GP dependent on when your procedure was performed.

Finally:

Healthy lifestyle with particular focus on diet, exercise, mental and physical wellbeing is paramount when it comes to heart health so, please do your best to look after your heart as prevention is the best intervention!

Further Help

For a variety of cardiac conditions and the associated symptoms please visit [Heart and circulatory conditions | BHF](#)

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Contact Details

01925 275566 - Specialist Cardiac Nursing Team Office (Cardioversion Patients)

01925 662295/01925 662138 – Cardiology Secretaries

01925 662335 - Appointments

Please note we will not give explicit clinical advice via telephone/email until you have been reviewed within clinic by a consultant first.