

THE INPATIENT PATHWAY

Adults and young people are admitted to a cardiac ward for investigations, surgery or supportive treatment from a variety of places (from another hospital, Emergency Departments, or Outpatient Clinics). This can mean you will be admitted as a day case or for a longer stay that can be from just a few days to several weeks depending on the care and treatment required.



Day case



Longer stay



When you meet your Cardiologist, they may ask you to come to a cardiac ward for investigations or treatment.



Sometimes a longer stay in hospital is needed to help us to manage difficult symptoms you may be experiencing or if you are having cardiac surgery



You will receive a letter with the date of your admission and details of why you are being admitted.

You may be contacted by telephone by one of the clinical nurse specialists, the bed manager or waiting list office who will tell you when to go to the day case unit.



You will be admitted under the care of a Cardiologist who will manage your care. They will keep you informed and discuss any treatment plans with you.



Planned surgery:
If you are to be admitted for surgery the surgical pathway outlines what it will be like when you attend the surgical clinic.

You will be invited to the pre assessment clinic to prepare you for your procedure. You will be able to ask any questions you may have during this appointment.



When you arrive you will be admitted by the reception staff and a nurse will show you to your bed.

The nurses and doctors looking after you will explain everything that is likely to happen.



When your symptoms have improved and you are recovered, the doctors and nurses will begin to prepare for you to go home.



You will have your procedure and be closely monitored afterwards. The length of time you are monitored for will depend on the procedure you have had.



Once the doctors and nurses are happy you have fully recovered you will be able to go home. This can sometimes be the same day or if necessary you may stay overnight and go home the next morning. You may need a final ECG or echo before you leave.



You may need to take medication home with you which will be arranged. A follow-up outpatient appointment may be needed with a few weeks or months, this will be arranged for you.

A final echocardiogram, the scan of your heart with jelly on your chest, and ECG (electrocardiogram), may be required before you leave.



Aftercare information: We will give you all the information you will need to continue your recovery at home. You will also get details of any medications and when you will next be seen in clinic for follow up.



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You can contact the clinical nurse specialist team for advice, if you have any questions after you have gone home. The telephone number is 0117 342 6599, this is a 9am - 5pm service.

As well as nurses and doctors there are other team members who play an important part in your hospital stay.

These are: Ward Sister/Matron, Cardiac Nurse Specialist, Psychologist, Physiotherapists, Dietitian, Hotel Service Assistants, Ward Clerk.

THE INVESTIGATIONS

- ECG - An **electrocardiogram (ECG)** is a test which measures the electrical activity of your heart to show whether or not it is working normally. An ECG records the heart's rhythm and activity on a moving strip of paper or a line on a screen
- Echo - An **echocardiogram** uses sound waves to create pictures of your heart's chambers, valves, walls and the blood vessels (aorta, arteries, veins) attached to your heart. A probe called a transducer is passed over your chest. The probe produces sound waves that bounce off your heart and "echo" back to the probe. These waves are changed into pictures viewed on a video monitor
- Bloods - **Blood tests** can be used in a number of ways, such as helping to diagnose a condition and assessing cardiac function.
- Cardiac MRI - **Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)** is a way of creating detailed images of your internal organs, such as your heart and blood vessels.
- Exercise testing - An **exercise ECG** is an electrocardiogram (ECG) that is recorded while you are walking on a treadmill or cycling on an exercise bike. The aim of the test is to see how your heart works when you are more active.