

THE **OUTPATIENT PATHWAY**



Your specialist Cardiologist in Bristol or Cardiff may want to follow you up in outpatient clinic locally to monitor your heart condition. The Bristol and Cardiff teams have several outreach clinics where they travel to see patients closer to their home.

The pathway below tells you more about what happens when you are an outpatient. Your team may first meet you in your local clinic and then refer you to University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff or the Bristol Heart Institute for specialist advice.



You will receive a letter with the time, date and location of your outpatient appointment with your cardiologist.



When you attend you may be asked to undergo investigations during the appointment, or investigations might be arranged over the following few weeks. This information helps your cardiologist plan the next steps of treatment or monitoring for you.



You will be sent a copy of your clinic letter, summarising your discussion with the cardiologist and also the timescale for your next appointment.

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.