

About your Community Cardiology clinic appointment

At the Community Cardiology service we see people who have been referred by their GP or other health professional for diagnosis, investigation or management of a heart condition.

Our team of GPs have specialist training and extensive experience in diagnosing and treating heart conditions.

Where necessary we will fast-track referrals to Arrowe Park Hospital or Liverpool Heart & Chest Hospital for further investigation or intervention.

Referral to the service

You can be referred to the service by your GP or if you have been admitted to hospital you may be referred by your hospital team.

Appointments

You will be seen by one of our specialist heart doctors.

At your appointment you will initially meet with a clinic nurse who will check your blood pressure, pulse, height, weight and will perform an *electrocardiogram (ECG).

You will then meet with the specialist who will look at the test results, discuss your symptoms and carry out an assessment. They may request for further tests to be carried out eg blood test or breathing test. If further testing cannot be done on the day of your appointment, we will book a follow up appointment that is convenient to you.

Further testing could include any of the following diagnostic tests:

- Echocardiography - ultrasound of the heart
- Resting ECG (heart tracing)
- 24 hour blood pressure monitoring
- 24 hour ECG
- Cardio memo event recording (patient operated heart tracing, usually for palpitations)
- 7 day event recording (heart tracing for patients with intermittent palpitations)
- Spirometry (breathing test)
- Blood tests

A chaperone for your appointment is available upon request.

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How to prepare for you appointment

We recommend wearing loose fitting, comfortable clothing.

Please keep your skin clean and free from body lotions or oils.

Please bring with you a list of medications or your prescription.

Results

The results of your appointment will be sent to your GP within 10 working days.

If appropriate, you will be referred through for Cardiovascular Rehabilitation.

Clinic locations

We offer services and clinics at the following venues:

St Catherine's Health Centre, Derby Road, Birkenhead, CH42 7HA

Victoria Central Health Centre, Mill Lane, Wallasey, CH44 5UF

NOTE: outside of clinic times we do not have staff based at Victoria Central Health Centre. If you need to speak to us please contact us on Tel: **0151 604 7307**.

Useful Websites

NHS Choices www.nhs.uk

British Heart Foundation www.bhf.org.uk

Arrhythmia Alliance www.arrhythmiaalliance.org.uk

** The ECG records the rhythm and electrical activity of your heart through electrodes which are stuck to your chest, arms and legs. It is a painless test which should take no longer than five minutes but may require any chest hair to be shaved.*

Use this space to make any notes either before or during your appointment...

If you would like this information in another format, please contact the Your Experience Team on freephone 0800 694 5530. Alternatively you can email wcnt.yourexperience@nhs.net

March 2019 V2



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