

Your echocardiogram appointment

You have been referred to the Community Cardiology service to have an echocardiogram.

What is an echocardiogram?

An echocardiogram (also known as an echo) is an ultrasound scan of the heart that gives a detailed picture of the heart structure and shows how well it is working. It is a similar scan to the ultrasound used in pregnancy.

What is an echo used for?

The echo can give accurate information about the pumping action of the heart, the structure and the valves.

You may have been referred for an echo because you have recently had a heart attack or heart failure, or have heart valve problems or congenital heart disease.

What happens during the test?

Having an echo is painless and takes approximately 20 minutes.

A probe is placed against the skin on your chest, which sends ultrasound waves to the heart. These then echo back to build up a detailed picture. To carry out the test, you will be asked to undress down to the waist. Lying on your left side a lubricating jelly will be put on your chest to enable the scanning probe to make good contact with the skin. **A chaperone is available on request.**

How can you prepare?

Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothing.

The results

The technicians report from your echo will be sent to your own GP within 10 working days.

For any queries please contact the admin team on **0151 514 6480** Monday - Friday, 9.00am - 5.00pm.

Originator: Community Cardiology

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

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