

Referral to the Rapid Access Arrhythmia Clinic

Lead Clinician: Dr Karthik Viswanathan, Consultant Cardiologist and Electrophysiologist

Arrhythmia Specialist Nurses: Clare Vickers and Wendy Veevers

Background:

A cardiac arrhythmia refers to an abnormality of the heart rhythm – resulting in a very slow or very fast heart rate (and including irregular heart beat). The latter includes 3 categories: supraventricular tachycardia (SVT), atrial fibrillation and atrial flutter (AF) and ventricular tachycardia (VT). Patients usually experience symptoms such as palpitations, shortness of breath or loss of consciousness, although some may have no symptoms at all.

You have been referred to the Rapid Access Arrhythmia Clinic.

What happens now?

1. The referral will be received and reviewed by the Specialist Arrhythmia Nurses and you will receive a SMS text message and letter with the appointment date and time.
2. The Rapid Access Arrhythmia clinic is a multi-professional clinic: you will have an ECG and sometimes also an Echocardiogram (ultrasound of the heart), be seen by the Arrhythmia Specialist Nurse and then see the Consultant. This appointment may take up to 2 hours.

If your referral does not meet the criteria for this clinic, the Arrhythmia nurses will contact you and you will be offered an appointment in another cardiology clinic or an alternative appropriate clinic.

What if your symptoms return before you receive an appointment?

- Ensure you are taking all the medication as directed by your Doctor.
- Many (but not all) episodes of arrhythmia start suddenly, but also stop on their own within a few minutes or sometimes few hours. If your arrhythmia is SVT, you can also try simple tricks called physiological manoeuvres to stop the episode. These are safe and easy to perform and you should have been advised about these by your doctor.
- While you do not need to come to hospital for every episode of arrhythmia, if, however, you feel quite unwell (for example you have bad chest pain, feel very faint or find breathing difficult), you must go to the nearest Accident and Emergency Department (A&E). Equally if it does not stop within 30 minutes, you could consider going to A&E.

Who can I contact for advice before the appointment?

- The Arrhythmia Alliance website is a UK-based national website that offers useful information for patients on all types of arrhythmias.
Website: <http://www.heartrhythmalliance.org/>
- For any other specific questions of a non-urgent nature, contact Clare Vickers or Wendy Veevers (Cardiology Arrhythmia Specialist nurses) between Monday to Friday (between 9am to 4:30pm) on 01422 223543. Please leave a message on the answerphone if necessary. We aim to return all calls no later than the end of the next working day.

If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Clinical Services Manager
Cardiology Department
Calderdale Royal Hospital
Telephone No: 01422 224310

www.cht.nhs.uk

If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym formacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww. danych kontaktowych

ਰ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਚੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ,
ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور فارمیٹ طرزبان میں درکار ہوں، تو
برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

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المذكور أعلاه"