

Referral Support Service

Cardiology

CAR03

Open Access Echocardiogram

Definition

- This is a physiologist led service at York Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust.
- On receipt of a completed referral letter via the RSS with ECG attached, the patient will be contacted by letter for a scan within 6 weeks.
- The report will be returned to the referring GP within 1 week of the investigation with advice about cardiology follow up.
- Only patients deemed to be significantly symptomatic or having severe abnormalities will be directly referred to the consultant cardiologist

Exclude the following

- People already under cardiology follow up in Secondary Care.
- People with symptoms of heart failure with a murmur or with AF, should be referred through the [heart failure pathway](#)

Referral Criteria

- New murmurs in people over 16yrs
- Murmurs identified in pregnancy please state the duration of pregnancy in the referral
- People with a family history in a first relative of congenital heart disease and with a murmur
- People with a family history in a first degree relative of cardiomyopathy please state which type in the referral letter (Hypertrophic Obstructive Cardiomyopathy HOCM <40 years every 4 years, Dilated Cardiomyopathy DCM <50 years every 4 years)
- People with AF in whom there is a strong suspicion of structural heart disease (a murmur) should be given **warfarin** for anticoagulation. **Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs)** should not be used for this condition; they are not licensed for this indication.
- Younger people (<60) with AF in whom a structural problem will raise thromboembolic risk to a level where anticoagulation is required

Information to include in the referral letter (there is no specific referral form for this pathway)

- Please attach a recent ECG
- Please ensure that you have clearly identified the reason for the referral in the letter
- **Send through the RSS for booking into York Hospital Foundation Trust eReferrals**
The service is listed under Specialty Diagnostic Physiological Measurement;
Echocardiography Service



Vale of York
Clinical Commissioning Group

Patient Information Leaflet / PDAs

<http://patient.info/health/echocardiogram>

Responsible GP: Dr Kathryn E Griffith
Responsible Consultant: Dr Maurice Pye
Responsible Pharmacist: Laura Angus

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