



*Better
Together*

Patient information

Rapid Access Chest Pain Clinic (RACPC)

Cardiology Directorate

Your doctor has referred you to the Rapid Access Chest Pain Clinic (RACPC). Your appointment may be at **Broadgreen Hospital** or the **Royal Liverpool Hospital** depending on when it is, **so please check** your appointment letter.

What is the RACPC?

The aim of the clinic is to provide rapid assessment (within two weeks of seeing your doctor) of your recent onset of chest pain/discomfort. Your doctor thinks this may be angina (heart pain) and so at the clinic you will be seen by a heart specialist (cardiologist) or specialist nurse and have some tests carried out to establish whether the pain is coming from your heart or not.

What is angina?

Angina is a symptom of coronary heart disease. It is usually an uncomfortable feeling in the chest (like a heaviness or tightness) which may spread to the arms, neck, jaw, back or stomach and may cause breathlessness. Normally it is brought on by physical activity or emotional upset. However, it is possible to have an episode of angina when you are resting or even when you are asleep.

The heart muscle needs its own blood supply to work effectively. This supply is provided by the coronary arteries. The coronary arteries can become narrowed by a gradual build-up of fatty material within their walls (atheroma) which reduces the amount of space through which the blood has to flow.

Exertion makes the heart work harder and so it requires more blood, which the narrowed arteries cannot deliver. As a result of this, the heart muscle is not receiving the amount of blood it wants, which can cause the pain or discomfort in the chest called angina.

What will happen at the clinic?

Please go to the reception desk and they will show you where to wait. You will be seen by the cardiac specialist nurse who will ask you about your symptoms and talk about any other illnesses or operations that you have had in the past. You will also have your blood pressure checked and be examined.

Please bring a list of your medicines with you.

While you are in the clinic you will have an ECG (Electrocardiogram) – this is a heart tracing showing the electrical activity in your heart

You may also have other tests including blood tests, a chest X-ray, breathing tests (spirometry) or an ultrasound scan of your heart (echocardiograph).

Before you leave the clinic the consultant or specialist nurse will discuss with you whether it is necessary for you to have any further investigations.. You may be asked to come back for review in the outpatients department.

How long will I be in the department for?

Your visit is likely to last up to two hours, although on occasions this may be longer, following which a full summary letter will be sent to your family doctor (GP). You will also receive a copy of this letter, unless you do not wish to.

Further Information

If you would like any more information before your appointment please

Telephone: 0151 706 3286

Text phone number 18001 0151 706 3286

If there is an answerphone please leave a message and we will return your call.

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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