

COMMUNITY CARDIOLOGY SERVICE - A GUIDE FOR PATIENTS

Cardiology Doctor Appointment

Your appointment

Your appointment will be held at a GP surgery which offers free parking. Finding free spaces can sometimes be difficult so please leave plenty of time.

If you need to cancel or re-arrange your appointment, please call **01420 560817**.

- You will be seen by a cardiology doctor and clinic assistant. The doctor will ask questions about your general health and the symptoms you are having and examine you.
- You will have your height and weight measured, blood pressure taken and an ECG performed (an electrical tracing of the heart). You may also have an echocardiogram (see below).
- A full assessment of your condition will be made, a management plan discussed and a full report will be sent to your GP. The appointment will last about 45 minutes.
- You can take all your medications as usual and eat and drink as normal.
- An echocardiogram or 'echo' is a scan that uses sound waves (ultrasound) to produce pictures of your heart. It's a completely painless test that doesn't have any side effects and doesn't use radioactivity.
- You will be asked to remove any clothing covering your upper half, but you'll be covered up appropriately. You'll lie on the couch on your left-hand side and will have stickers attached to your chest to monitor your heart rate. The lights in the room will be dimmed to make it easier to see the images of your heart.
- An ultrasound probe covered by a small amount of gel is placed gently on the centre of your chest and will be moved to different positions throughout the test: beneath the left breast/left side of your chest, beneath the rib cage and to the base of your neck. This enables us to see images of your heart from a number of different angles, which are then recorded.
- During the echocardiogram you will hear sounds coming from the machine, which represent blood flow through the heart.

If you have any comments or concerns about this service, please contact us on the telephone number above or email **whccg.mhhcardiology@nhs.net**

For further information about the service and clinic locations please visit our website:
www.communitycardiologyservice.co.uk