

Rapid Access Lung Clinic



This leaflet has been written to provide information about the Rapid Access Lung Clinic at this hospital. We hope it answers some of your questions or concerns. It is not intended to replace talking with medical or nursing staff.

Language

If English is not your first language, we can arrange an interpreter to be present at your appointment. To arrange this please telephone our secretary on Tel 0151 600 1468.

What is the Rapid Access Lung clinic?

People who attend the Rapid Access Lung clinic are referred by their GP or hospital doctor. The clinic aims to promptly investigate symptoms related to your chest. You may have had a recent x-ray which recommended the need for further tests. The clinic is organised so that a number of tests can be done during the day, to reduce the number of times that you have to attend the hospital.

Which Doctor will I see at the clinic?

The clinic is staffed by two Consultant Chest Physicians (Dr Ledson and Dr Smyth) and a team of Specialist Registrar doctors.

How long will I be at the hospital?

You should expect to be at the hospital for most of the day.

Can someone come with me?

Yes, you are welcome to bring a relative or a friend with you on the day.

Where is it held?

Your first appointment with the Rapid Access Lung Clinic is held on the **Day Ward** in Liverpool Heart and Chest NHS Foundation Trust Hospital. Subsequent appointments are held in the hospital's Outpatient Department.

How do I prepare?

You may have your usual breakfast before 8am on the morning of your first appointment. You can continue to drink water after

this time until instructed by Day Ward staff, but should not have anything else to eat until you have been seen by the Doctor.

You should take any medication as usual.

If you are **Diabetic** you should have your usual breakfast and medication before 8am. If you take **Metformin** you should not take this on the morning of the procedure. Please inform the nurse who is looking after you on the day ward that you are Diabetic.

If you are taking **Warfarin** or other anticoagulant medication please contact our secretary on Tel 0151 600 1468 as soon as possible, as you may need to stop taking the Warfarin a few days before attending the clinic.

What do I bring with me?

- All of your medication in their original boxes or a list of your medication.
- To maintain your privacy and dignity you may bring with you a dressing gown, for when you are required to change into a hospital gown, whilst undergoing some tests.

We would advise you to leave any valuables (jewellery and money) at home, as the Trust can not provide secure storage for these items.

What happens at the clinic?

You will meet with a Doctor (Chest physician) who will discuss your symptoms with you and any x-rays that you may have recently had done. The consultant will discuss with you some tests to help diagnose or rule out certain medical conditions. Please feel able to ask further questions to help you understand the situation.

The nursing staff on the Day Ward will also discuss with you any concerns that you may have and may suggest asking other hospital staff to meet you e.g. dietician, social worker.

- **Breathing tests** – breathing tests help determine lung function and volume. They are an indicator as to how well your lungs are working.
- **CT scan (Computer Tomography or CAT scan)** – is a specialised type of x-ray that produces highly detailed and accurate images of inside your body. Patients sometimes worry that this scan will be “like going in a tunnel” and claustrophobic, but actually it is not. We describe the machine as “a big polo mint” so your head is never enclosed



Your consultant may also recommend that you have the following:

- **Bronchoscopy** – A bronchoscopy is a short investigation that allows a doctor to examine your windpipe and some areas of your lungs by passing a flexible tube (a bronchoscope) down your throat. It is performed under a local anaesthetic and sedation. For further written information about this procedure please ask the ward staff for the leaflet ‘Having a Bronchoscopy under a local anaesthetic’.

This investigation may be done during the afternoon of your first attendance.

What are the benefits of having the tests?

The tests will help your consultant to diagnose or rule out certain lung conditions. The results of the tests may help to determine the best treatment options if appropriate.

Are there any alternatives?

This depends on your symptoms and condition. Your doctor will discuss alternative tests with you if appropriate.

Will there be further tests?

Investigating lung conditions can be complex, so it may be necessary for further tests to be organised. If this is necessary the need for these tests will be discussed with you at your next appointment.

Can I drive to and from the hospital?

We would advise you **not to drive** to the hospital, due to the tests that you will have done on the day. Ideally we suggest that you arrange for someone to bring and collect you from the hospital. Relatives or friends may contact the day ward staff on Tel 0151 600 1413 to check what time you will be ready to leave and to arrange to collect you.

If you require hospital transport (ambulance) on medical grounds, this can be arranged by your GP receptionist or you can call 0845 148 1733 to make arrangements yourself or 0845 6076181 for the Welsh Ambulance Service.

When can I resume normal activities?

Nurses on the ward will inform you when you are able to eat and drink following the tests. Usually this will be 1-2 hours afterwards. Once you have had something to eat and drink you should be able to go home. You will be given a discharge information sheet.

Although you may not be aware of it, sedation can remain in your system for up to 24 hours and can cause you to be less alert than normal. It is important that you

do not drive, drink alcohol, operate machinery or sign legally binding documents within 24 hours of having sedation. It would be advisable to be escorted home and have someone stay with you overnight.

When do I get the results of my tests?

You will be given the details of your follow up clinic appointment, which is usually one week later and is held in the outpatients department. At this appointment, the consultant will discuss the results of the tests that you have had and whether you require any treatment, or if further tests are recommended. Further tests are commonly required to enable the Doctor to make a clear diagnosis and this will be fully discussed with you.

Who do I contact if I have any medical problems after I go home?

If you require medical advice following your appointment, you can either contact the Day Ward on Tel 0151 600 1413, the Discharge Advice Team on 0151 600 1056 or your own GP service.

Is there anyone I can contact before my appointment to answer my questions?

Yes, if you have any questions or concerns about your attendance at the hospital, you contact our Lung Nurse Specialist on Tel 0151 600 1182 (Monday – Friday, 8am – 4pm)

Other information about your attendance at the hospital

Your views

We are continually looking to improve the services that we provide. To do this we welcome the views of our patients and their families/friends. If you have any suggestions (however small it may seem) please tell us, by either asking to see our Lung Clinical Nurse Specialist whilst you are at the hospital.

Alternatively throughout the hospital there are leaflets available entitled 'Listening and Learning' that asks for your comments as to how your experience at the hospital could be improved.

Periodically we carry out formal surveys (questionnaires) to gain your opinion on the service, the results of which are very important as they enable us to develop the services we provide to suit the needs of the patient.

Research at the Liverpool Heart and Chest NHS Foundation Hospital

In order to develop and improve our services and treatments for patients, the Trust participates in a range of research and audit projects. During your attendance at the hospital you may be asked about the possibility of participating in one of these projects. However you are under no obligation and your care will not be affected if you decide not to participate.

'No Smoking' Policy

The Liverpool Heart and Chest NHS Hospital is a NO SMOKING HOSPITAL.

Giving up smoking may not be easy, and you will need the support and encouragement from family and friends. We have a Smoking Advisor to offer you further help and you can request a visit when you are in the outpatients department or alternatively make an appointment by telephoning **0151 288 2455**.

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For further information visit:

www.lhch.nhs.uk

If you require a copy of this leaflet in any other format or language please contact us quoting the leaflet code and the language or format you require.

<p>إذا لديك الرغبة في الحصول على نسخة من هذه المعلومات بأي لغة أخرى أو بشكل آخر (على سبيل المثال بخطوط كبيرة) ، الرجاء الاتصال علينا على الرقم 0151 600 1257 موضحاً الشكل أو اللغة التي ترغب فيها.</p>
<p>如果您想索取一份以其他語文或形式 (如大字體) 編印成的資料傳單，請致電 0151 600 1257 向我們查詢，並說明您所需要的形式和語文。</p>
<p>ئەگەر ئەم زانیاریانەت بەھەر زامانیکی تریاخود شیوازیکی تر دەوئیت (بۆ نموونە بە چاپی گەورە) ئەوا تکیایە بە ژمارە تەلەفونی 0151 600 1257 یەپوئەندیماڤ پێیو بەکە و ناماژە بەدە بە زامانی یاخود شیواییە کە دەتەوئیت</p>
<p>W celu uzyskania niniejszej informacji w innym języku lub formacie (np. dużym drukiem), prosimy o kontakt z nami pod numerem 0151 600 1257 podając wymagany format lub język.</p>
<p>Haddii aad u baahan tahay koobiga wargelintan oo luqad ama qaab kale (sida far waaweyn) fadlan nagala soo xiriir 0151 600 1257 adiga oo noo sheegaya luqadda ama qaabka aad wax ku rabtid.</p>

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