

Your cardiology referral

You have been referred to the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust Cardiology Department by your GP or another healthcare professional. This leaflet explains what to expect next.

What happens once I've been referred?

Once the hospital has received your referral letter, it will be reviewed by a cardiology consultant to decide the most appropriate course of action. For this to happen, you will be booked into the **Cardiology Triage Service**. Although this will have a date and time associated with it, **it is not an appointment and you should not attend the hospital for this**. This is a dedicated slot for the consultant to review your referral.

What happens after I am triaged?

- You may be booked in for a face to face consultation with one of our cardiology team.
- You may need to have some diagnostic tests in the hospital, which we will arrange for you as soon as possible.
- Or, after reviewing your referral, the consultant may feel that no outpatient appointment is necessary. In these cases, we will write to you and your GP explaining why, along with any necessary advice and guidance.

For any appointment(s) that we arrange, you will receive a text message and/or letter with a time, date and location. If any appointment is not convenient, please reply to the text message or ring/email the team listed at the top of your letter, and we will contact you to reschedule.

How long will I have to wait?

You will be added to the waiting list, unless you are assessed as urgent. We will schedule your appointment once you reach the top of the list. Our current waiting time is approximately three months; please do not contact us before this time. For urgent referrals we will aim to see you within 6 weeks.

Where will my appointment be?

We currently provide outpatient clinics and some diagnostic tests at:

- The Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading RG1 5AN
- Bracknell Healthspace, Bracknell RG12 9RT
- Townlands Memorial Hospital, Henley RG9 2DR
- West Berkshire Community Hospital, Thatcham RG18 3AS

If you would like to reschedule or change the location of your appointment, please phone the CAT team on the numbers below. Alternatively, if you would like to register with our partner system DrDoctor you can do so and receive reminders prior to your appointment.

Useful contact numbers If you have any other questions, please contact the Cardiology Administration Team on 0118 322 6676 or email rbb-cat11@nhs.net.

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.