



Information for
patients and
carers

Outpatient Investigation for
Pulmonary Embolism

The doctor who saw you in A&E suspects you may have a pulmonary embolism (PE). This is a blood clot in your lung.

To investigate for this, you require a scan of your chest. A clot in your lungs could be serious so it is important that you have a scan of your chest.

As you are clinically well, the doctor is confident that it is safe for you to go home. You have been referred to the hospital's Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) clinic to have your scan.

What happens now?

We normally start treating you for a blood clot whilst you are waiting for a scan as this is safer. Before you go home, you should have been given some blood thinning medication in A&E. You should also have been given some to take home with you to administer yourself.

You will need to contact the SDEC unit at 08:30am the morning after you were seen in A&E to see if a scan can be arranged for that day.

If there is a slot available you will be asked to attend the SDEC unit to have your scan.

You may leave A&E with a cannula (plastic needle) in your arm. Please look after this cannula. If it is accidentally pulled out, apply direct pressure over the site until any bleeding stops.

How do I get my scan?

The team on SDEC will confirm the date and time of your scan.

Once an appointment is confirmed, please attend the SDEC unit at the agreed time and book in with the receptionist.

The reception staff will let you know when the radiology department are ready for you and will direct you as needed.

While waiting for your scan

If you suddenly feel unwell (lightheaded, faint, breathless, severe chest pains) or feel your symptoms are getting worse **you should ring 999 or return to A&E so you can be reviewed by a doctor.**

While you are on blood thinning medication, if you have a collapse, fall with a head injury, or notice any worrying bleeding, **you should ring 999 or return to A&E so you can be reviewed by a doctor.** If you would like further information about blood thinning medications please ask a member of staff and they will be able to help.

Please note if you cannot attend your appointment, then it is important that you contact SDEC and let them know on 01772 522519.

Your results

Once you have had your scan, you will return to the SDEC unit to let us know how you would like to be followed up. You can either wait in the hospital or be contacted at home with the results.

If you would prefer to go home, a doctor will contact you over the phone to give you your scan result and explain any further management that is required.

If you decide to wait in the hospital for your results, a doctor will speak to you directly.

What happens if the scan shows a pulmonary embolism?

If a clot is confirmed on the scan, you will need to collect a further prescription of blood thinning medication from the hospital. This will be discussed with you at the time by a doctor. The doctor will ask a few more questions and possibly organise further investigations. These are

usually performed as an outpatient so you will be able to go home following the scan.

Contact details

Same Day Emergency Care Unit:

Contact No: 01772 52 2519

How to find us: Enter at the main entrance of the hospital and follow the main corridor. You will see a sign saying SDEC approximately 50m from the entrance on your right. Alternatively ask at reception for help.

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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If you want to stop smoking you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

Gujarati:

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપા કરીને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણા માં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

Romanian:

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi."

Polish:

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

Punjabi:

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

Urdu:

پوچھیے۔ یہ معلومات دوسری ضرورت ہے تو براے مہربانی سمجھنے کے لیے مدد کی اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات بھی دستیاب ہو سکتی ہے زبانوں اور بڑی چھپائی میں

Arabic:

بأحرف مطبوعه المعلومات هذه توفير يمكن. تطلب أن يُرجى المعلومات هذه فهم في مساعدة توريد كائن إذا أخرى وبلغات كبرى

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