

Community Diagnostic Centre Breathlessness Pathway Patient Information Leaflet

This information leaflet is a guide to inform you about what the Breathlessness Pathway is, what may happen at this appointment and what tests or investigations may be arranged for you in the future. You will be given more detailed information about each test as it is arranged.

What is the purpose of Breathlessness Pathway

Breathlessness is a common symptom associated with a range of acute and chronic conditions, including Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), asthma, lung cancer, heart failure, Atrial Fibrillation (AF) and obesity. Outcomes for these conditions can be improved with an early diagnosis. A delayed or inaccurate diagnosis means people do not get the treatment they need and may end up in hospital. Early and accurate diagnosis is critical to ensure the best outcome for the patient. This is a symptom -based pathway with the aim of improving and streamlining respiratory/cardiac diagnostic services. It is a one stop clinic approach combining multiple diagnostics, a clinical consultation and therapy plan to help patients with either an unclear diagnosis or disproportionate symptomatology. The Breathlessness Pathway has been designed to promote efficiency, reduced hospital visits, reduced waiting times and improved resilience within the Medical Team.

Why have I been referred to the Breathlessness Pathway?

Your GP is concerned about some changes which have been happening to you, or about changes that have been noted on your chest X-Ray and CT scan.

I have been referred, what happens next?

You will be contacted by the Community Diagnostic Centre team (CDC) who will advise you of your appointment date and time. You will attend QVH CDC for a number of diagnostic and physiological tests which will be decided by the symptoms you have.

The following tests are performed as part of breathlessness pathway:

- Electrocardiogram (ECG)
- 24 Hour Heart monitor
- Computed Tomography (CT)scan
- Spirometry and FeNO
- Echocardiogram
- Lung Function test.

You will be advised which of these tests you will be having at your appointment.

Brief summary of what happens during the pathway

- You will have appropriate clinical review
- You will complete a breathless questionnaire
- You will have appropriate diagnostics and physiological tests undertaken
- You will have a full review of your tests results by the Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT)
- You will be discharged back to the care of your GP with advice and management by the physiology team, consultant review, or referral to other specialist services as appropriate.

Your GP surgery be kept updated with all your test results throughout the pathway.

It is really important that you come to the first appointment you are offered. The earlier your symptoms are investigated the better.

Cancellations

Please let the hospital know immediately on this number 01342 414438 if you are unable to attend the appointment. Please quote your patient V number, NHS number or name and date of birth. It is important an alternative date and time is made when cancelling this appointment.

Breathlessness Pathway Team contact details

Telephone: 01342 414438

Email: qvh.cdc@nhs.net

We may be away from the office, so please leave a message on the answer machine and we will return your call as soon as we can. Please remember to leave your name, date of birth, and hospital or NHS number.

FAQ

1. What is MDT? MDT means multidisciplinary team – a number of specialist doctors who will review the tests and results and come to a conclusion about diagnosis and next steps. For this pathway, this could include Respiratory, Cardiology and Radiology Consultants.
2. Will all my care be delivered at QVH? During the pathway, yes it will be. However, if you have a diagnosis of cardiac issues or cancer, we may need to transfer your care to another trust for treatment.

If you'd like to find out how you can support QVH
please visit

www.supportqvh.org

