

Patient Information

Vascular Investigations Unit

Ultrasound scan of your dialysis fistula

This information will help you prepare for your visit to the Vascular Investigations Unit.

Please read all the information enclosed about your appointment.

Important

Please contact the Department as soon as possible if:

- **you have special needs**
- **you are given an appointment on a day that you have dialysis**
- **you will be using ambulance transport to attend your appointment**

Telephone: 024 7696 8212

Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm



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What is an arteriovenous fistula ultrasound scan?

This is a painless procedure where the dialysis fistula is checked using ultrasound. We will apply gel to these areas and a rest a tool called an ultrasound probe on your skin. The probe will send sound waves through the gel and into the body.

Preparation

You can eat and drink as normal for the test, and take all medications as normal. Hearing aids and pacemakers are not affected by the scan.

What will happen when I come for my scan?

You will be seated in our reception area (shared with Nuclear Medicine). A member of the Vascular Investigations Unit will call you in for your appointment.

As a teaching hospital, students or trainees may be present during your examination. If you wish, you can request they not be present.

We will ask you to confirm your name, date of birth, and home address. Then we'll explain the procedure, and sometimes ask you questions about your health. You will have the opportunity to ask any questions about the scan.

We may ask you to change into a gown and remove the clothing on the top half of your body. This is so your fistula arm is fully exposed. However, if your fistula arm can be accessed fully without removing clothing, you won't need to change, and tissue can be used to cover your clothing.

Your scan will be performed with you sat on an examination couch, with your feet on the floor, and your arms rested on top of a pillow on your lap. If you use a wheelchair and have difficulty transferring to the couch, we can perform the scan with you seated in the wheelchair.

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During the scan, the operator will need to apply ultrasound gel to the needling sites and the full length of your fistula arm. This should not be painful, but if any areas of your arm are sensitive please let the operator know.

The ultrasound gel applied to the skin is water-based and non-irritating.

The procedure shouldn't take longer than 30 minutes, but this can vary from patient to patient.

If you have additional scans booked, these will be done during the same visit. So your appointment might take longer than usual.

What happens after the scan?

You will **not** be given any results on the day. We are not permitted to discuss these with you.

After the scan, a formal report will be given to the referring consultant to review. They will usually follow up with you within 14 days.

Directions

The Department is a short walk from the main entrance on the ground floor. To find the Vascular Investigations Unit:

- Enter the hospital through the main entrance and turn left onto the west wing.
- Follow the signs for X-ray along the corridor. X-ray is on the left, just past Fracture Clinic.
- Enter the X-ray reception and continue ahead, following signs for Nuclear Medicine.
- The Vascular Investigations Unit is found through the double doors. You will enter into the main reception area of the Department.

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Car parking

Hospital car parking is available to all hospital patients and visitors. Spaces are limited, so please allow plenty of time to find a car parking space. You will have to pay for parking.

More information on directions, parking charges, and site maps is available on the Trust website (www.uhcw.nhs.uk).

Bringing someone with you

You may wish to bring a friend or family member with you for your scan. They may be useful if you do not speak English well or have any special needs.

Please do not bring children or pregnant women with you.

Facilities available in the hospital

- Chilled water dispenser in the Department
- Costa Coffee, M&S Food Court and WHSmith shop in the main reception foyer
- Three hospital restaurants

More information

We would like to make your visit as pleasant as possible. If you have any concerns, please talk to the person looking after you or contact us on 024 7696 8212.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us on 024 7696 8212 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke-free policy.

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Did we get it right?

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This helps us to make further improvements and to recognise members of staff who provide a good service.



Have your say. Scan the QR code or visit:

www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback

Document History

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