

Patient Information

## Vascular Investigations Unit

# Ultrasound scan of your leg arteries (Lower limb arterial Doppler)

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 will be using ambulance transport to attend your appointment**

**Telephone: 024 7696 8212**

**Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm**



## **What is a lower limb arterial Doppler ultrasound scan?**

An ultrasound scan is sometimes called a 'Doppler'. This procedure is painless.

We use ultrasound to check the blood flow in your arteries.

We will apply gel to your arms and rest a tool called an ultrasound probe on your skin. The probe will send sound waves through the gel and into your body. We can then view the blood flow of your arteries.

## **Preparation**

You can eat and drink as usual for the test. Take all your medicines as usual.

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 will ask you to expose your leg(s) from your groin to the foot. You may need to remove some items of clothing. A hospital gown can be provided if you wish.

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Sometimes, the blood flow in the main veins in the tummy area (abdomen) may need to be assessed. For this, we will ask you to expose your tummy area for the scan.

Your scan will be performed with you lying flat on an examination couch. If you cannot lie in position (due to back problems, breathing problems, etc.), we can adjust your position to make sure you're comfortable.

We may ask you to roll onto your side at some points during the scan. This is so we can get the best possible images of your arteries.

During the scan, the operator will need to apply moderate pressure with the ultrasound probe over the area being examined. This may be uncomfortable but should not be painful.

We will apply some ultrasound gel to the length of your leg from groin to foot. The ultrasound gel applied 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.

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### 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 the main reception area of the Department.

### 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](http://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

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### 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.

### 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](http://www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback)

#### Document History

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