Incremental Shuttle Walk Test (ISWT)

What is it?
The test is a low risk test that measures how often you can walk back and forth between 2 cones along a 10 metre track. The walking pace will be set and increases every minute. One length of 10 metres is called a ‘shuttle’ and every minute you complete at a fixed speed is called a ‘level’.

Why is it done?
The distance you are able to walk is an indicator of your exercise capacity. When multiple tests are done over time, your doctor can see if your exercise capacity has changed. This information can be used to evaluate treatments or to time surgery.

How is it done?
After arriving in our department you will be taken to a 10 metre track set out in a corridor. Your blood pressure, oxygen saturation and heart rate will be measured. You will also be asked to rate how short on breath you feel on a scale between 1 and 10.

A CD will be played explaining audible cues we call ‘bleeps’. These bleeps set the pace of the test and you will need to reach the end of the track before the next bleep sounds.

The pace will initially be very slow, but after each minute, the bleeps will become faster. If you fail to reach the end of the track twice or if you feel you cannot go any further, the test will be ended. When you have missed the end of the track for a second time, or if you feel you cannot go any further, the test stops.

Your blood pressure, heart rate and oxygen saturation level will be measured once again and you will be asked to rate your shortness of breath. The number of completed levels and shuttles will be recorded onto a report.

After you have recovered from the exercise and if you have no further appointments, you will be allowed to go home.

Please also follow the following instructions before attending the test:
• Do not eat a heavy meal before the test (a light meal is acceptable)
• If you normally use inhalers, please bring them with you
• Please wear suitable flat and comfortable shoes
• Please avoid vigorous exercise 2 hours before the test
For all appointments in the Outpatients area of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, please enter through the main entrance and check in using the self check-in kiosks. When visiting our hospitals we recommend parking in the following car parks:

- For the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham use Car Park A.
- For the Heritage Building (Queen Elizabeth Hospital) use Car Park B.
- For all appointments in the Outpatients area of the Queen Elizabeth Hospitals.

Disabled Parking: Free

Car Parking Charges:
- 0-1 hour: £2.90
- 2-3 hours: £4.30
- 4-5 hours: £5.00
- 6-7 hours: £5.80
- 8 hours: £7.20
- Over 8 hours: £14.40
- Weekly Pass: £20.10

For public transport, please check with providers for details of services and timetables. You can also call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit networkwestmidlands.com.

Disabled Parking is available in Car Park A and B.

If you are using a sat nav, please make sure it has been updated recently. The post code B15 2GW will bring you onto the hospital site. Once on site, please follow road signs to the relevant car park.

For those arriving by public transport, there are a number of services available.

1. West Entrance (All wards and departments, Heritage Building)
2. East Block Day Unit (All wards and departments, Heritage Building)
3. Heritage Building (All wards and departments, Heritage Building)
4. Midland Avenue
5. Institute of Translational Medicine
6. Centre for Clinical Haematology

Visit the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham website for more information: www.ueh.nhs.uk/find.

For those arriving by taxi, please use car park D for the Heritage Building (Queen Elizabeth Hospital) or car park B for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham. Please ensure you note the entrance and exit points as instructed in the diagram. The shuttle bus is a free service to transport patients and visitors to various locations around the site. The service runs from 07:00–19:00 Monday–Friday (excluding Bank Holidays).