

Attending the Valve Surveillance Clinic

What is a valve surveillance clinic?

Your heart usually has 4 heart valves. In some people these valves may leak (also known as valvular regurgitation or not open properly (known as valvular stenosis)). When there is a fault with the valve that is significant, the valve may have to be replaced or repaired. In both cases it is important that you are monitored by a member of the Valve Surveillance Clinic. This could be a cardiology doctor or echocardiographer who will work together as a team to look after you.

At this clinic, we check on your general health and the function of your valves in a number of different ways, from both talking to you, listening to your heart and if required performing an echocardiogram (heart scan). This may not be needed in all patients.

When you attend the clinic we will record your pulse, blood pressure, oxygen levels, height and weight. You will then see a member of the Valve Clinic team. A list of your current medication will be required and you will be examined.

How often we see you will depend on the type of valve problem and how severe it is.

What is a clinical examination?

You will need to undress down to your waist; a hospital gown will be provided. You will be asked to lay on a hospital couch. The person running the clinic will assess your physical condition and listen to your heart and lungs with a stethoscope.

What is an echocardiogram?

An echocardiogram is a scan that uses ultrasound (sound waves) to produce pictures of your heart. A small amount of gel will be applied to the chest and an ultrasound probe will then be placed on the chest and moved to different positions. This test takes approximately 30 minutes. It is painless and without side effects.

You will remain under the care of your consultant cardiologist but may not see them in this clinic. They will be available however, if there are any particular queries.

If any further tests are required, an appointment for these will be posted to your home address. A report of all the findings during your appointment will be posted to yourself and your GP. You will receive any future appointments via DrDr text messaging. If you do not open the attachment within the text message the appointment will be posted to your home address.

If you wish to bring a relative to your appointment, please feel free to do so. If you require a chaperone please contact us prior to your appointment to arrange.

Department address and contact information:

Good Hope Hospital:	0121 424 7415
Queen Elizabeth Hospital:	Professor Steeds Secretary 0121 371 4035
Heartlands Hospital:	0121 424 3736
Solihull Hospital:	0121 424 4358

If you require a hospital interpreter, please contact your consultant cardiologist's secretary before your appointment.

If you require this information in another format, such as a different language, large print, braille or audio version please ask a member of staff or email patientexperience@uhb.nhs.uk.