

Patient initiated follow-up:

Atrial Fibrillation



Doncaster and Bassetlaw
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

The Trust now allows patients to make their own follow-up appointments, should they feel that this is necessary.

Details on how you can do this can be found below, as well as on your guide card.

What is a Patient Initiated Follow-Up (PIFU) appointment?

Patient initiated follow-up puts you in direct control of your care, following initial treatment. Here, your clinician will:

- Discuss your condition or procedure with you, as well as any symptoms that are a cause for concern
- Advise you on how to contact the service directly
- Give you a set period of time to contact the service. After this period, your GP will be informed and you will need to return to them.

When should I contact the service?

Please contact us to arrange an outpatient appointment if you experience any problems with your Atrial Fibrillation.

You may still experience some short-lived episodes of an irregular heartbeat, even when you have been prescribed the best treatment.

If your Atrial Fibrillation episodes become more frequent (i.e more than 2 – 3 times per month) and lasts for longer than usual you can get assistance.

Please note that ectopics (missed or skipped heartbeats), which can be a normal occurrence, will often not be influenced by your Atrial Fibrillation treatment.

Ectopics cause symptoms of fluttering in the chest, but these are usually short-lived and are not a cause for concern.



Who do I call to arrange an appointment?

If you wish to discuss this with the Cardiology team, then contact the hospital booking service on 01302 642500 and ask for a 'patient initiated follow-up'. You will be given an appointment as soon as possible.

To be given an appointment, you must:

- Have attended an appointment with a clinician and been told this is appropriate to you.
- Have contacted the service within the timeframe specified by your clinician.

If you are registered with a Doncaster GP, you can contact the Cantley Cardiac Nurses for help and advice on 01302 379518, Monday to Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm.

If you decide that your appointment is no longer needed, it is very important that you try to cancel it before the day in question, so that the slot can be given to someone else.

Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS)

The team are available to help with any concerns, complaints or questions you may have about your experience at the Trust. Their office is in the Main Foyer (Gate 4) of Doncaster Royal Infirmary. Contact can be made either in person, by telephone or email.

The contact details are:

Telephone: 01302 642764 or 0800 028 8059

Email: dbth.pals.dbh@nhs.net

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