

# Irvine vascular studies scanning department

## Information for patients, relatives and carers

### The vascular department

The vascular department at St Mary's Hospital can be a very busy scanning unit but we always aim to keep waiting times to an absolute minimum.

This leaflet explains what will happen when you attend your vascular ultrasound scan. Please make sure you arrive on time for your appointment.

Please bring any regular medications that you will need to take while you're at the clinic.

### How to find the Irvine vascular studies scanning department

The Irvine Vascular Studies scanning department is located on the ground floor of the Mary Stanford Wing at St Mary's Hospital.

Please ask a member of staff if you have any questions.

### Vascular ultrasound scan

A vascular ultrasound scan allows us to look at the arteries or veins in your neck, arms, legs or abdomen (tummy). Sometimes we also measure the blood pressure in your arms and legs. The exact type of vascular scan you have depends on your symptoms. A vascular scientist performs the scan.

There are no known risks from the sound waves we use in an ultrasound scan. External ultrasound scans like these do not have any side effects.

We might need to ask you to take off some of your clothes so we can access the area of your body to be scanned. You can have a chaperone for your scan – this is someone who will come into your appointment with you for support. Please tell a member of staff if you want a chaperone at your appointment. You can also ask for a friend or family member to join you.

During the scan we will use the ultrasound probe to spread a clear gel over the area we are looking at. You will not feel any pain but you may feel some discomfort or pressure where we press the probe over your skin. We might need to press the probe firmly to get a clear picture of inside your body.

After the scan the vascular scientist will write up a report and send it to your doctor. Your doctor will talk to you about the results at your next outpatient appointment.

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# Follow-up appointment

If you have any queries about this appointment or any other vascular appointments please call: **020 3312 3739.**

## More information

For more information about the vascular service at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, please visit: [www.imperial.nhs.uk/our-services/surgery/vascular-surgery](http://www.imperial.nhs.uk/our-services/surgery/vascular-surgery)

If you would like more information on vascular conditions, please visit:  
[www.circulationfoundation.org.uk/](http://www.circulationfoundation.org.uk/)

## How do I give feedback about my visit?

We want to hear your **suggestions** or **comments**. Your feedback helps us provide the best service. You can always speak to a member of staff.

You can also contact the **patient advice and liaison service (PALS)** on **020 3312 7777** (10.00 to 16.00, Monday to Friday excluding bank holidays) or email at [imperial.pals@nhs.net](mailto:imperial.pals@nhs.net). The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or questions and they can help solve problems.

You can make a complaint by ringing **020 3312 1337 / 1349** or emailing [ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net](mailto:ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net). The address is Complaints department, fourth floor, Salton House, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, London W2 1NY.

## Other ways to read this leaflet

Please email us at [imperial.communications@nhs.net](mailto:imperial.communications@nhs.net) if you need this leaflet in a different format. This could be large print, Easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or in a different language.

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