
The vascular department

The vascular department at Hammersmith 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 at your ultrasound scan. Please make sure you arrive on time for your appointment.

Please bring any regular medications that you may be due to take while you are attending the clinic to prevent any missed doses.

How to find the vascular department

The vascular department is located on the first floor of 'D' block (ward D4) at Hammersmith Hospital.

From the front (South) entrance, walk straight ahead to the main corridor and turn left. Walk towards 'D' block and follow signs for the vascular department.

If you enter the hospital from the rear (North) entrance, please follow signs for the vascular department.

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

Vascular ultrasound scan

At your appointment a vascular scientist will perform an ultrasound scan. The ultrasound scan allows us to look at the arteries or veins in your neck, arms, legs or abdomen (tummy). Sometimes we may also measure the blood pressure in your arms and legs.

The exact type of scan you have will depend on your symptoms.

There are no known risks from the sound waves used in an ultrasound scan. External ultrasound scans don't have any side effects and are generally painless, although you may experience some discomfort as the probe is pressed over your skin.

Please be aware that you may be asked to remove items of clothing so we can access the area of the body to be scanned. Chaperones are available upon request.

During the scan we will use the ultrasound probe to spread a clear gel over the area being examined. You will not feel any pain but you may feel some pressure because the probe may need to be pressed firmly against your skin to get a clear picture.

After the scan the vascular scientist will write up the report. Your doctor will be able to discuss the results with you at your next outpatient appointment.

Follow-up appointment

If a follow-up appointment is made for you on the day please make sure you know when and where this is before leaving the department. If you have any queries about this appointment or any further vascular appointments please call: **020 3313 1541**.

Further 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

If you would like more information on vascular conditions, please visit: www.circulationfoundation.org.uk/

How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3313 0088** (Charing Cross, Hammersmith and Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea hospitals), or **020 3312 7777** (St Mary's and Western Eye hospitals).

You can also email PALS at imperial.pals@nhs.net The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to complain by contacting our complaints department:

Complaints department, fourth floor, Salton House, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street London W2 1NY

Email: ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net
Telephone: **020 3312 1337 / 1349**

Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print or easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or in alternative languages. Please email the communications team: imperial.communications@nhs.net

Wi-fi

Wi-fi is available at our Trust. For more information visit our website: www.imperial.nhs.uk

Vascular laboratory – scanning department

Hammersmith Hospital

Information for patients, relatives and carers