

Patient information

Echocardiogram (Echo)

How to find us

The cardiology department is located on the lower-ground floor, in the Cardiac Centre.

Cardiology department opening hours

Monday	8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Tuesday	8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Wednesday	8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Thursday	8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Friday	8:30 am to 4:30 pm

What to expect



An echo (echocardiogram) is a non-invasive procedure that is used to assess the heart's structure and function. It is a safe and painless test.

You will be asked to remove your clothing above the waist and a gown will be provided. You will be asked to lie on the couch on your left hand side and a small probe with

ultrasound gel will be used to obtain images at different locations across your chest. The scan takes pictures of your heart using sound waves. You will hear sounds during the test, which represent the blood flow through your heart.

If you would prefer a male/female physiologist to perform your scan, then please contact the department **prior to your appointment** so we can accommodate this. It may not be possible to arrange this on the day without providing us with prior notice.

Please allow up to 40 minutes for the appointment. The scan itself typically takes around 20 minutes.

After the scan is completed, a report is written by the physiologist who will examine the images taken during the scan and generate a technical report. This report provides information on the size and shape of your heart, its ability to pump blood around the body and how the heart valves are working.

What happens after your test?

All results and relevant information will be forwarded to the referring doctor, who will contact you in reference to these results.

If you have not heard anything within **2 - 3 weeks** of your test, then please contact your GP or referring doctor.

Contact us

There are many ways that you can contact us:

By post: Cardiology Department, The Cardiac Centre,
West Suffolk Hospital, Hardwick Lane, Bury St.
Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 2QZ

By phone: Main hospital: 01284 713000
Cardiology Department: 01284 712536

By email: cardiologydiagnosticsdept@wsh.nhs.uk.



If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (formerly DisabledGo)

<https://www.accessable.co.uk>



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