

## Rapid Access Chest Pain Clinic

### Introduction

The rapid access chest pain clinic (RACPC) service is designed to offer prompt specialist assessment for adult patients presenting to their GP's with clinical features suggesting a high or intermediate probability of new onset stable angina because of coronary disease.

### How to make a referral

We will only accept referrals made on the specifically designed RACPC referral form received by fax. Incomplete referral forms will be returned and no appointment will be made.

### Exclusion criteria

The service is neither intended nor appropriate for the following patient groups:

1. Those previously diagnosed with coronary artery disease e.g. angina, MI, PCI, CABG.
2. Those previously diagnosed with other significant cardiac diseases including heart failure, valve disease and cardiomyopathy.
3. Those who have been investigated or treated by a cardiologist in the past 5-years.
4. Cases of suspected acute myocardial infarction or unstable angina.

### Referral processing

In the absence of any of the exclusion criteria each patient will have his / her risk of coronary disease estimated on receipt of the referral. This estimate will be derived from the clinical details (nature of chest pain and risk profile) provided on the referral form, using a fully validated risk assessment model\*.

Patients will be divided into one of three groups according to their calculated probability of significant coronary disease. Those that fall into a 'low-probability' group will be offered an appointment at the clinic within two weeks.

In the event of a referral being declined you may of course make a further referral for an out-patient consultation with a cardiologist in the usual way, if you feel one is indicated.

- Development and Validation of a Clinical Score to Estimate the Probability of Coronary Artery Disease in Men and Women Presenting with Suspected Coronary Disease. Morise et al. Am J Med. 1997;102:350-356.

