

Important information if you have a suspected PE (Blood Clot)

What has happened?

You attended this hospital and your assessment has highlighted that you need investigations to find out if you have a Pulmonary Embolism (PE). (This is blood clot within a blood vessel of your lungs)

You will need a number of investigations to find out if you have a PE.

Today you will have had:

- A general examination
- Routine blood tests
- A risk assessment to identify your risk of a PE

You may also have had a 'blood thinning' injection before you went home.

The Doctor or Medical Nurse Practitioner who assessed you, does not think you need to be admitted to hospital. If you need any further investigations or treatment this will take place as an Out-Patient.

What will happen now?

You may need a CTPA scan of your chest to see if there is a PE.

The Medical Nurse Practitioner or DVT nurse will tell you when to return to hospital for further tests, review or blood thinning injections. If you have not already been given this information, they will contact you by 10.00am tomorrow.

If the DVT Service does not contact you, please phone them and tell them that you are waiting for follow up investigations.

You can contact the DVT Service on: 01415327272,

Or you can phone the hospital switch board on:

01413149294 and ask them to page 06272.

What if my symptoms get worse?

It is important you contact 111 or attend Accident and Emergency Department if you have any of the following:

- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- You have sudden chest and or back pain
- You cough up blood stained spit
- You experience your heart racing (palpitations)
- You collapse

You may also have had a blood thinning injection which can rarely have side effects.

It is important that you tell the doctor, Medical Nurse Practitioner or DVT nurse if you develop the following:

- Unusual bruising
- Bleeding that does not stop itself
- Nose bleeds
- If you pass blood or have a black bowel motion
- There is fresh blood in your urine.
- You vomit fresh blood or it has a brown coffee granule like appearance.

Some Common Questions and Answers

Why have I been given a blood thinning injection or tablets?

This is to prevent and treat unwanted clots in the vein.

Some patients do not need this injection as they are already taking blood thinning drugs such as warfarin.

What is a CTPA scan?

A CT pulmonary angiogram (CTPA) is a CT scan that looks for blood clots in the lungs (PE). A CTPA takes pictures of the blood vessels that run from the heart to the lungs (the pulmonary arteries).