

## Your first appointment at the Respiratory Clinic

Should you chose **not** to attend the clinic please contact **0121 424 5000** to enable us to use this urgent appointment for somebody else.

### What will happen at this appointment?

This appointment has been arranged to find out the cause of the problems you are having with your chest. You may like to bring a friend or relative with you for company.

Please be aware that there will be several people present during your discussion with the doctor. They all have an important part to play in your treatment and care. In the clinic the doctors will:

- Take a full medical history
- Do medical examination

During the first appointment **you may also have** one or two following tests.

### Spirometry

This is a simple breathing test that measures the amount of air a person can blow out of the lungs (volume). It also measures how fast you can blow it out (flow). It is one of the best and most common lung function tests.

### Chest X-ray and CT Scan

Occasionally you may need a chest X-ray or CT scan on same day. Chest X-ray is usually the first test that is used to diagnose lung problems. However, chest X-rays cannot give a definitive diagnosis. A CT scan is usually carried out after a chest X-ray. A CT scan uses X-rays and a computer to create detailed images of the inside of your body.

Before having a CT scan, you will be given an injection of a contrast medium. This is a liquid containing a dye that makes the lungs show up more clearly on the scan. The scan is painless and takes 10-30 minutes to complete.

### When will I know the results?

The full medical history and physical examination may give your doctor enough information to discuss the findings with you by the end of this first visit. Sometimes these information are not be sufficiently clear to make a diagnosis and your doctor may wish to have the results of the CT scan before telling you exactly what is wrong.

## Information for Patients

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Then doctor will decide which type of investigation is the most appropriate for you to undergo and will make arrangements for this to happen. Further information about the investigation you will undergo will be sent to you with your appointment.

Once you have had your investigations you may be given another appointment to come back to see the doctor to discuss the results and any treatment that may be necessary.

Sometimes you doctor will write to you and your GP about the result when no further appointment is required.

### **Our commitment to confidentiality**

We keep personal and clinical information about you to ensure you receive appropriate care and treatment. Everyone working in the NHS has a legal duty to keep information about you confidential.

We will share information with other parts of the NHS to support your healthcare needs, and we will inform your GP of your progress unless you ask us not to. If we need to share information that identifies you with other organisations we will ask for your consent. You can help us by pointing out any information in your records which is wrong or needs updating.

### **Dear Patient**

We welcome your views on what you liked and suggestions for how things could be improved at this hospital. If you would like to tell us and others about your experience please make your comments through one of the following sites:

- NHS Choice:- [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)
- Patient Opinion:- [www.patientopinion.org.uk](http://www.patientopinion.org.uk)
- I want great care:- [www.iwantgreatcare.org](http://www.iwantgreatcare.org) (Here you can leave feedback about your doctor)

Be helpful and respectful: think about what people might want to know about this hospital or how your experiences might benefit others. Remember your words must be polite and respectful, and you cannot name individuals on the NHS Choice or Patient Opinion sites.

**If you have any questions you may want to ask about your condition or treatment, or anything you do not understand or wish to know more about, write them down and your doctor will be more than happy to try and answer them for you.**

