



Patient & Family Guide

2022

24-hour Cardiology Transfer Service



www.nshealth.ca

24-hour Cardiology Transfer Service

- We understand that this is a very stressful time for you and your loved ones. We hope the information in this pamphlet will help you feel more comfortable. Please ask your health care team any questions you may have.
- Your doctor or nurse practitioner has decided that you need the care of a cardiologist (heart doctor). You need a test called a cardiac catheterization (dye test). For more information on dye tests, see the pamphlet:
 - › www.nshealth.ca/sites/nshealth.ca/files/patientinformation/0718.pdf

Or watch the dye test video by:

- › Visiting <https://library.nshealth.ca/Cardiac-Services>

OR

- › Scanning the QR code below on your smartphone (open the camera on your smartphone, point the camera at the code, and tap the banner or border that appears):



- This test is done at the Halifax Infirmary (HI). The 24-hour cardiology transfer service means you do not have to wait as long for this test. When a bed at the HI is ready for you, you will be transferred there by ambulance.
- The test is usually done on the same day that you arrive. You will spend one (1) or two (2) nights at the HI. Usually, you will be discharged the next morning. Your referring health care provider and your cardiologist will decide how long you stay in the hospital.

While you are waiting to be transferred to the HI

- You will stay at your referring hospital. During this time, your doctors and nurses will:
 - › Answer any questions you may have about your possible condition
 - › Answer any questions you may have about the test
 - › Help you get ready for transfer. This may include clipping the hair on the areas of your body where the test will be done, teaching you what to expect after you are discharged from the hospital, and planning for when you go home.

Before you are transferred to the HI

- If your referring health care provider thinks you will be able to be discharged the morning after your test, your health care team will help plan:
 - › How you will get home
 - › When you will be seen for follow-up

When you are transferred to the HI

- When you arrive, you will be admitted to the hospital. You will likely go to Unit 6.1B.
- The nurses will make sure you are ready for the test. Then the cardiologist will meet you in the catheterization lab.
- After the test, you will return to your room on 6.1B. At this time, your health care team will tell you if your discharge plan has changed.
- When you are being discharged, your health care team will give you information about:
 - › New medication(s)
 - › Medication(s) that you need to stop taking and for how long
 - › When to contact your primary health care provider

- › Symptoms that need emergency medical treatment
- You will have a follow-up appointment with a health care provider in your community.
- **Important:** If you have not gotten a follow-up appointment from your health care provider 6 weeks after being discharged, call them to make an appointment.

My follow-up health care provider:

Phone: _____

After you are discharged:

- You may return home and go back to your regular and/or modified activities (as told by your doctor or nurse when you were discharged) until your follow-up appointment.
- **If you notice any of the symptoms described by your health care team or listed in the *Cardiac Catheterization (Dye Test)* pamphlet (see page 1), contact your primary health care provider.**

Being discharged from the HI after your test

- A loved one can pick you up at the HI. The attending doctor will let you know if there are specific instructions for your discharge.

OR

- A medical transport service will drive you to the entrance of your referring hospital and you can go home from there. **This is not available in all areas of Nova Scotia.**

OR

- An ambulance will take you back to your referring hospital. You may stay in the hospital longer, if needed. You will be seen by the health care team at that hospital and then a doctor will discharge you. The attending doctor will let you know if there are specific instructions for your discharge.

Notes:

This pamphlet is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice or professional judgment of a health care provider. The information may not apply to all situations. If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

Find this pamphlet and all our patient resources here:
<https://library.nshealth.ca/Patients-Guides>

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time:
Call 811 or visit: <https://811.novascotia.ca>

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