

Our Ref: 54507

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## Re: Freedom of Information Request

Please find below the response to your recent Freedom of Information request regarding cardiac monitoring service within NHS Southport and Formby CCG.

### Request/Response:

1. Any care pathways for the investigation and management of patients with symptomatic palpitations and/or syncope referred to cardiac services in your trust by GPs. Of particular interest is the role and positioning of diagnostic investigations such as cardiac rhythm monitoring, cardiac imaging and cardiovascular performance assessment.

There is a Cheshire & Merseyside Atrial Fibrillation pathway in place but not currently in use.

The CCG are also working with North Mersey CCGs to look at implementing a number of cardiology pathways that have been designed to improve access and patient care.

2. Details of both national and locally negotiated tariff arrangements applied to this service

There is no national or locally negotiated tariff arrangements within NHS Southport and Formby CCG as there is no specific care pathway commissioned by the CCG.

3. Does the GP have direct access to the cardiac monitoring service?

Yes BP, Echo and ECG via current primary care service.

4. Is the patient seen by a cardiologist before having the monitor attached?

No – patients usually seen for ECG but depends on what tests are required and patient history.

5. If not, who undertakes the process (e.g. technician, nurse etc)

The technician attaches the monitor and clinician interprets the results.

6. What is the first pass monitoring technology (e.g. 24hr, 48hr, 7-day event triggered etc)

Usually 24 hours but depends on patient history.

7. What happens after the first pass monitoring – are all seen by a cardiologist or is there a pre-appointment triage process.

If normal result the patient will be referred back to GP. If abnormal usually the patient will be referred to a cardiologist or GP with Specialist interest in Cardiology (GPwSI).

8. What other tests are ordered (e.g. 12-lead ECG, Echo etc), at which stage in the pathway and for which patients?

12 lead first. Other tests may include Echo – GP can order echo but not if patient is in AF – All depends on patient history.

9. What determines who is selected for 2<sup>nd</sup> pass monitoring and what technology is used for this?

GPwSI, Consultant or community HF team – HF Team have access to technology such as Alive Cor or cardiac memo

10. What determines who is discharged back to the GP?

Dependant on the problem identified and whether the care of the patient can be managed by their GP.

11. What is the current tariff for 24 hr, 48 hr, 7-day Holter Monitoring

Part of the block for direct access.

12. What is the tariff for referral to community cardiology investigation clinics

NHS Southport and Formby CCG commission a local community service and is costed with a local tariff.

ECG	£163
ECHO	£78
24hr	£50

13. What is the tariff for direct referrals for GPs for 24hr, 48 hr and 7-day Holter Monitoring

ECG	£47 – at Southport & Ormskirk
ECHO	£64 – National Tariff
24hr	Under Block at Southport & Ormskirk