

Suspected Heart Failure Service

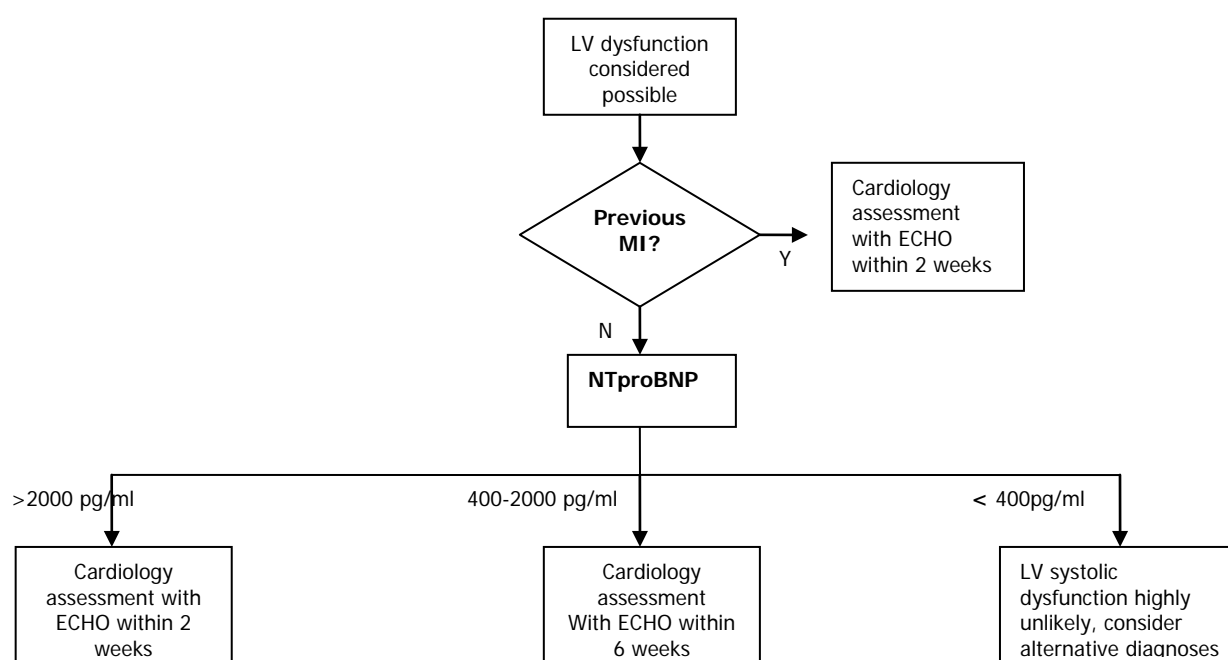
NICE clinical guidance 108 'Management of chronic heart failure in adults in primary and secondary care' and Chronic heart failure quality standard 9 were issued in August 2010 and June 2011 respectively. Both the guidance and quality standards give new advice on diagnosing heart failure.

The quality standard lists 4 statements which relate to this:

- ✓ Statement 1: People presenting in primary care with suspected heart failure and previous myocardial infarction are referred urgently, to have a specialist assessment including echocardiography within 2 weeks.
- ✓ Statement 2: People presenting in primary care with suspected heart failure without previous myocardial infarction have their serum natriuretic peptides measured.
- ✓ Statement 3: People referred for specialist assessment including echocardiography, either because of suspected heart failure and previous myocardial infarction or suspected heart failure and high serum natriuretic peptide levels, are seen by a specialist and have an echocardiogram within 2 weeks of referral.
- ✓ Statement 4: People referred for specialist assessment including echocardiography because of suspected heart failure intermediate serum natriuretic peptide levels are seen by a specialist and have an echocardiogram within 6 weeks of referral.

To meet these standards across both primary and secondary care the following pathway will be implemented.

SUSPECTED HEART FAILURE IN PRIMARY CARE



Normal values (95% confidence interval) - MEN					
Age	18-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	>75
NTproBNP pg/ml	62.9	83.9	161	241	486
Normal values (95% confidence interval) - WOMEN					
Age	18-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	>75
NTproBNP pg/ml	116	169	247	285	738
TproBNP also raised in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other causes of LV strain eg aortic stenosis, uncontrolled hypertension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Atrial fibrillation - RV strain eg pulmonary embolus, pulmonary hypertension - Renal failure, Rheumatoid arthritis 			NTproBNP can be suppressed by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - diuretics - ACEI/ARB - Beta blockers <p style="text-align: center;">Interpret with care</p>		

Impact on Direct Access Echo Service

The current DAE service will continue to receive referrals for the following:

1. Patients confirmed with a new diagnosis of Atrial Fibrillation (AF), NICE (2006) suggest the following patients are referred for echocardiography:
 - If a baseline echocardiogram is important for long-term management (such as in younger patient)
 - If considering a rhythm-control strategy that includes electrical or pharmacological cardioversion
 - If you suspect underlying structural or functional heart disease (failure or murmur) that would influence management, such as choice of antiarrhythmic drug
 - Where needed to help with stratifying stroke risk for antithrombotic therapy, but only where clinical evidence is needed of left ventricular dysfunction or valve disease.
2. Patients with a New Murmur who are otherwise fit and well.

Referrals will no longer be accepted for suspected heart failure in the Direct Access Echo Clinic (Appendix 2 for referral form)

Appendix 1

Referral

SUSPECTED HEART FAILURE

Department of Cardiology North Devon Hospital Barnstaple EX31 4JB

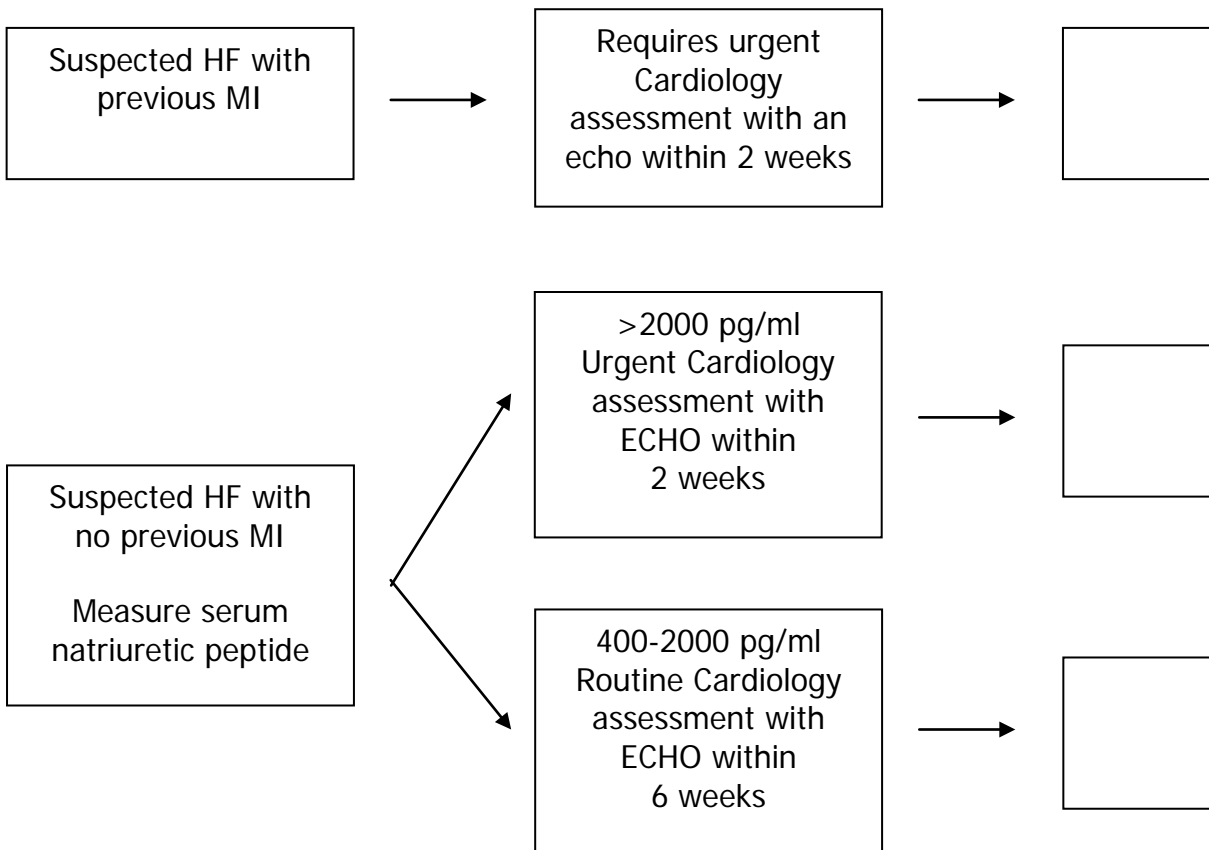
Patient Details:

Name:	Date of Birth:
Address:	NHS Number:
	Postcode:
	Home:
Male / Female	Mobile:

Referring GP Details:

Name:	Practice:
Telephone Number:	Fax Number:
Date of Referral:	Email:

TICK 1 BOX ONLY



Serum natriuretic peptide levels < 400pg/ml are considered normal therefore LV systolic dysfunction highly unlikely, consider alternative diagnoses

Appendix 2

ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY REQUEST FORM

Department of Cardiology North Devon Hospital Barnstaple EX31 4JB

NHS no:	Date of Birth:
Surname:	Address:
Forename:	
GP:	
GP Practice:	Postcode:
GP Telephone:	Telephone:
GP Fax No:	Referral Date:

INCOMPLETE & ILLEGIBLE FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED & WILL BE RETURNED

INDICATION	TICK
Atrial fibrillation (Refer to NICE guidance)	
Suspected heart failure with abnormal ECG or raised BNP	Use suspected heart failure referral form
New murmur in well patient	

History	
Exam	