

Patient information

Suspected Pulmonary Embolism

Royal Liverpool Hospital - Acute Medicine (Ward 1D)

About This Information Leaflet

This leaflet is for patients who have been referred to the Royal Liverpool Hospital's Acute Assessment Unit for a suspected pulmonary embolism (a blood clot in the lungs). Our service is designed to help you avoid an unnecessary hospital stay. If it's safe to do so, we will arrange for you to go home while you wait for your scan.

Your Scan and Investigations

We aim to schedule your scan within the next 24 to 48 hours. However, depending on availability, this may take up to seven days.

Your doctor or nurse will discuss the two types of scans available and decide which one is the most suitable for you.

Types of Scans

Your doctor or nurse will discuss which of the two types of scans is most suitable for you.

CTPA (CT Pulmonary Angiogram)

- This is the recommended scan for most patients.
- It is available 7 days a week, with four appointments scheduled each day between **8:15 AM and 9:30 AM**.
- The AAU team will arrange your scan appointment and contact you with the specific time.
- Please note that there is reduced availability for weekend appointments.

VQ Scan (Ventilation/Perfusion Scan)

- This scan may be more suitable if you have previously had an allergic reaction to a contrast dye (the injectable dye used for the CT scan).
- It may also be considered for patients who are pregnant.

If you do not receive a call with your appointment time by 2:00 PM on the next working day (Monday to Friday), please contact AAU reception on 0151 706 2719

Your Medication and What to Expect

To help with a suspected blood clot, you've been given an anticoagulant medication, often called a blood thinner. This medicine helps stop the clot from getting bigger and prevents new ones from forming while you wait for your scan.

Please take this medicine exactly as prescribed.

You have been given a seven day supply. On occasion, the scan may take a few days to organise and may be up to one week. Please bring any remaining medication with you to your appointment. You'll be advised on what to do next once you have your scan results.

Anticoagulants and Bleeding Risk

Anticoagulant medications can increase your risk of bleeding. While they are very effective at treating blood clots, it's important to be aware of the signs of unusual bleeding.

Watch out for these symptoms:

- Heavier or longer-lasting periods.
- Unexplained bruising.
- Pink or red urine.
- Vomiting blood.
- Bleeding when wiping after using the toilet or stools that look black and tarry.
- Cuts or nosebleeds that take longer than usual to stop bleeding.
- Unexplained bruising or small red spots on your skin.

If you're worried about bleeding or notice any of these symptoms, get help immediately. Please go to your nearest Emergency Department or call 999.

Monitoring your symptoms

While you're waiting for your scan, it's important to monitor your symptoms closely

Signs to watch out for include:

- Chest pain.
- Shortness of breath.
- Feeling lightheaded or dizzy.

If you develop any new symptoms or if your current symptoms get worse, please seek urgent medical attention immediately. If you are very concerned, go to the nearest Emergency Department or call 999.

On the Day of Your Scan

When you come for your scan, please go to **AAU (Ward 1D) 30 minutes before** your scheduled appointment time. A nurse will need to insert a small tube called a cannula into a vein, which will be used to administer a special dye during your scan.

From there, we will either direct you or arrange for a porter to take you to the Radiology department for your CT or VQ scan.

Once your scan is complete, you must return to AAU to be seen again with your results.

- **Please be aware that your scan results may take up to three hours.**
- If you would like to go to the hospital canteen or café while you wait, please let a member of the team know.

Getting to Ward 1D (AAU/SDEC)

The Acute Assessment Unit (AAU), also known as Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC), is located on Ward 1D at the Royal Liverpool Hospital.

Here are two ways to get there:

1. Via Mount Vernon Street Entrance

- Enter the hospital on the lower ground floor near WH Smiths.
- Take the lifts opposite St Paul's Outpatient Clinic up to the 1st floor.
- The AAU waiting area is located there.

2. Via the Emergency Department Entrance

- Enter the hospital on the ground floor near the main reception.
- Follow the signs for Outpatients 1.
- Take the lift located outside Outpatients 1 up to the 1st floor.

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Further information

Transport:

Unfortunately, we are unable to arrange transport for your visit to AAU. If required, you or a family member will need to arrange this with the patient transport team. Please note, appointments for scans may be cancelled if you are late or are unable to attend.

- **Patient transport team: For patients living in Cumbria, Lancashire or Merseyside: Freephone (Landlines only) 0800 032 3240**

Contact Numbers:

Secretaries (Acute and Emergency Department): 0151 706 3098

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 3098

Acute Assessment Unit Reception: 0151 706 2719

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2719

AAU Nursing station 0151 706 3512

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 3512

Author: Acute and Emergency Medicine

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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