

The John Radcliffe Hospital

Advice to the family and friends of patients with a suspected heart attack



Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals



NHS Trust

Coronary Care Unit

Level 1

John Radcliffe Hospital

Headington

Oxford

OX3 9DU

Telephone: 01865 220629

Important information for family and friends

The ambulance crew suspect that your relative or friend is having a heart attack. As you know, heart attacks are dangerous and pose a risk to a person's life.

The earlier we are able to treat your friend or relative, the more successful the treatment will be. The ambulance staff need to get your relative or friend to hospital as soon as possible. For this reason they do not have time to explain everything. This leaflet briefly describes what will happen next.

- Heart attacks are caused by a blockage in an artery which supplies blood to the heart muscle. If we can open this artery quickly we can limit the damage to the heart.
- The ambulance is taking your relative or friend to the Oxford Heart Centre at the John Radcliffe Hospital, which specialises in treating heart attacks. Here they will be seen by a specialist on their arrival and immediately treated for their heart attack if appropriate. This is likely to involve an angiogram, which shows up any blockages in the arteries of the heart. Where necessary, blocked heart arteries will be opened using a procedure called a coronary angioplasty.
- We suggest that you gather some belongings for your friend or relative (e.g. some nightwear and a toiletry bag) **plus any medicines they are currently taking**, and come to the Coronary Care Unit on Level 1 of the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. This is where your relative or friend will be transferred to once they have been treated for their heart attack.
- As your relative or friend may need treatment in the ambulance, it is better for you to come to the hospital separately. Please do not try to follow the ambulance.

The telephone number of the Coronary Care Unit is 01865 220629.

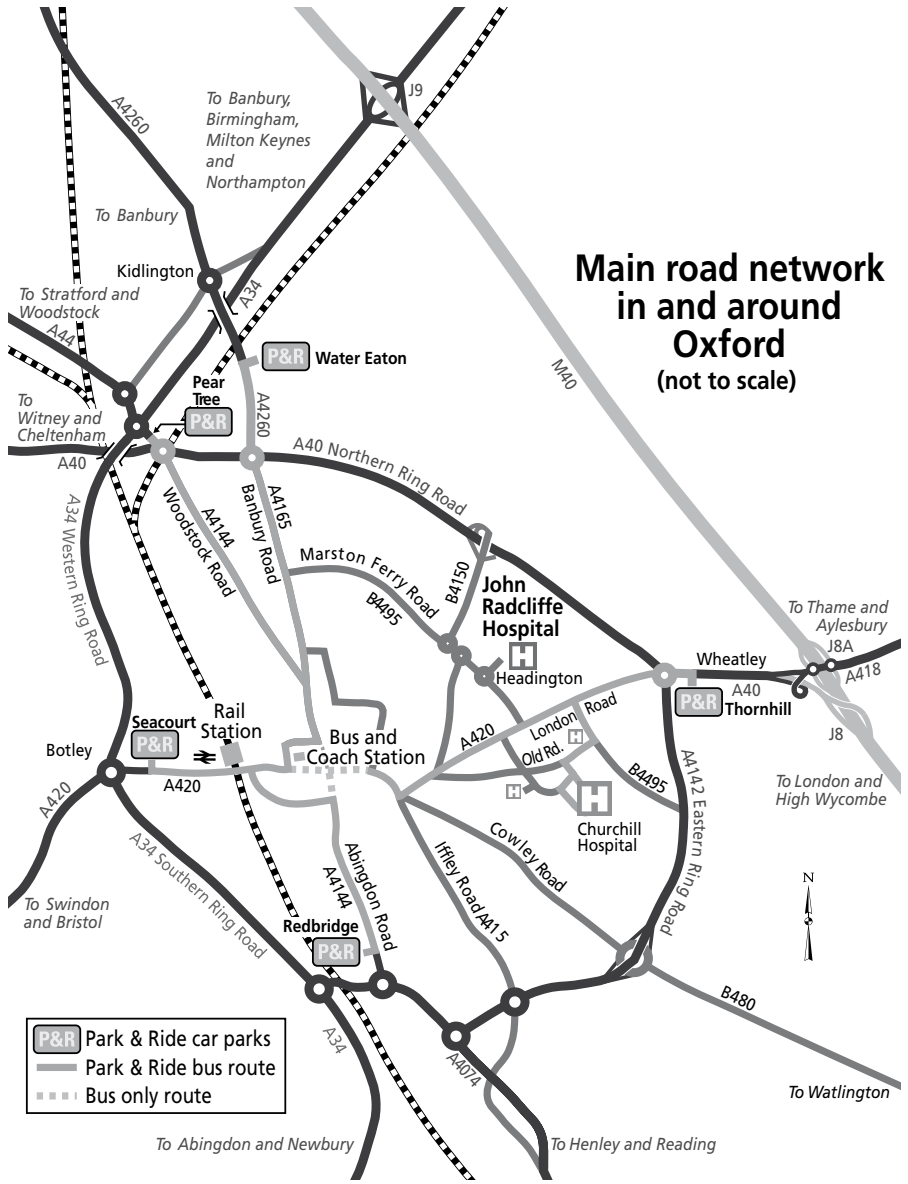
- The maps on page 5 and 6 indicate the routes to the John Radcliffe Hospital. Please use car park 2 if possible. Enter via the main entrance and follow signs to Coronary Care Unit on Level 1. Depending on your time of arrival the car park will cost you £1 for up to 2 hours. Please make sure you have change with you. When you arrive at the Coronary Care Unit please ask to speak to one of the nurses. They will be expecting you.

We will do everything we can to help your relative or friend recover from this event. We will also do our best to support you and give you all the information you need during the course of their hospital stay and recovery.

Remember:

- **Do not try to follow the ambulance**
- **Bring all medicines**
- **Go directly to the Coronary Care Unit (Tel: 01865 220629)**

Main road network in and around Oxford (not to scale)



Turn over ...

If you need an interpreter or need a document
in another language, large print, Braille or
audio version, please call **01865 221473** or
email **PALSJR@orh.nhs.uk**

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