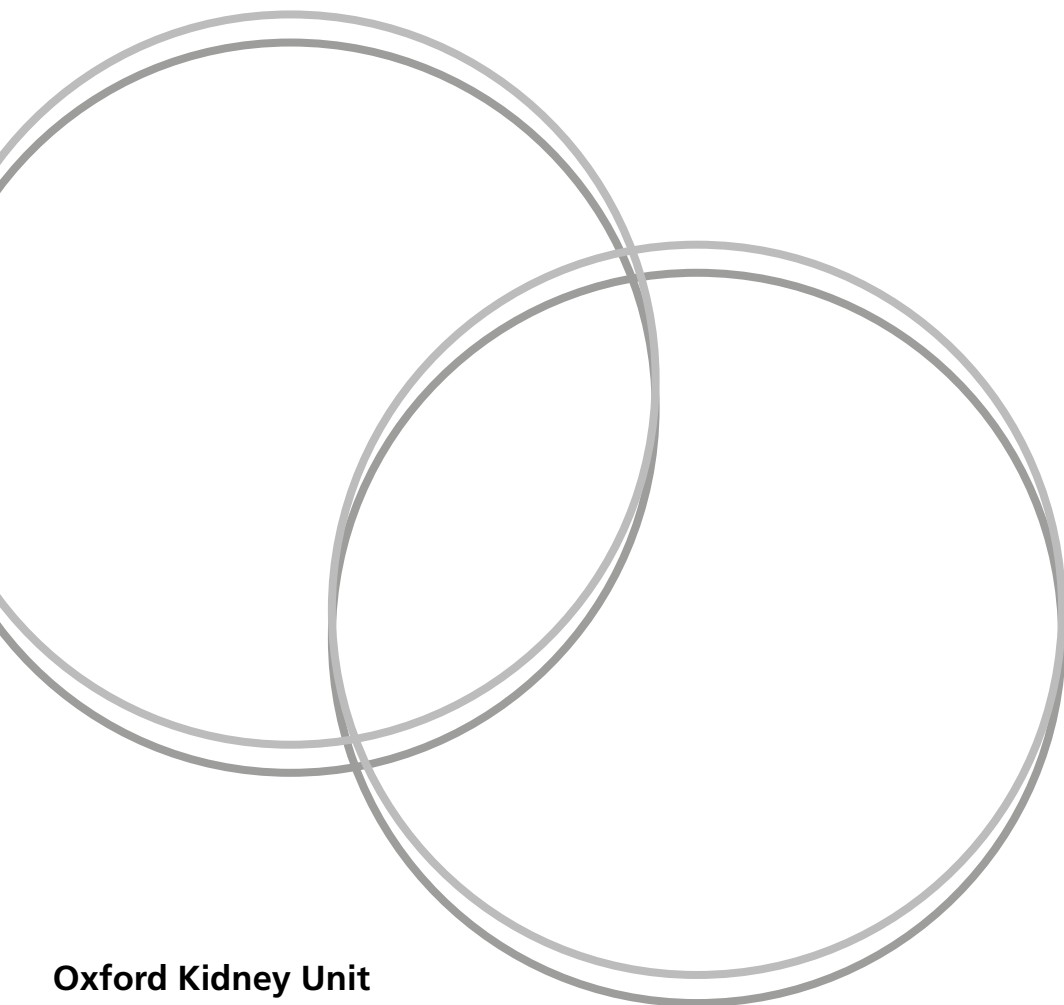




Oxford University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Renal Vascular Access Clinic

Information leaflet



Oxford Kidney Unit

You have been given this leaflet to help you prepare for your Vascular Access Clinic appointment. There are different reasons why you have been asked to attend this clinic.

These include:

- Peritoneal Dialysis catheter insertion.
- Vascular access creation (AVF or AVG).
- Hernia repair.
- Renal parathyroidectomy.
- A surgeon may also ask that you attend the clinic for another reason.

Your healthcare clinician will have discussed why before they ask for you to be given an appointment. You may wish to bring a friend or family member to the clinic.

This leaflet tells you what to expect and what to bring with you on the day of your appointment.

Where is the Vascular Access Clinic?

This clinic takes place on a Tuesday afternoon in the Renal Outpatient Department, based at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford. Your appointment may take up to one and a half hours.

What happens in the Vascular Access Clinic?

When you attend the clinic, you will be seen by either a surgeon or a specialist vascular access nurse. The team will talk with you about the reason for your visit. **You will also be asked about:**

- your overall health
- the medications you take (please remember to bring a list of your medications)
- your support network (family and friends)
- how you manage day to day activities.

Haemodialysis access assessment

On the day of your clinic, you will have a duplex scan. A duplex scan takes about 30 minutes. We will apply some cool jelly and roll a probe over your arms. The scan uses harmless sound waves that give us a picture of your blood vessels. It will help us to assess the size of your veins and decide which type of vascular access is best suited for you.

Once the scan is done, a surgeon or nurse will see you and explain the results and which is your best vascular access operation. They will also explain more about the operation. You will have a chance to ask questions. If you need a general anaesthetic or regional block/sedation, you will be asked to attend a pre-operative assessment nearer to the operation date. There are separate information booklets about haemodialysis vascular access which we will give you. These will tell you more about what to expect on the day of your operation.

Abdominal assessment for peritoneal dialysis catheter insertion

A surgeon or nurse will examine your abdomen to look for previous operations, scars and hernias. Please ask for a chaperon if you require one.

The surgeon will also talk with you about the operation, including any risks and side effects. Sometimes there may be a few months between seeing a surgeon and needing to have the peritoneal dialysis catheter inserted, therefore we will give you a date for your operation once your kidney doctor or nurse feels you need to start peritoneal dialysis. You will need to have a pre-operative assessment nearer the time of your operation.

Hernia repair assessment

A surgeon will examine your abdomen to assess the size and type of hernia you have and explain about any operations. Please ask for a chaperon if you require one. You may need to have a CT scan or ultrasound before the operation as this helps the surgeon to assess the size of the hernia.

Parathyroidectomy assessment

A surgeon will talk to you about the operation including risks and side effects. They may also examine you. You will need to have three scans before you have the operation. These can be done in your local hospital if you live outside Oxford.

The scans include:

- **An ultrasound scan.** This uses harmless sound waves and is used to examine your parathyroid organs and tissues in the neck.
- **A sestamibi scan.** This is done by injecting a small amount of radioactive substance into a vein in your arm and taking x-ray pictures two and four hours later.
- **An MRI scan.** This scan generates images of your parathyroid glands.

When will I be given a date for the operation?

We will write to you to let you know when your operation will take place. If this date is not convenient, please call the telephone number on the letter as soon as possible. We can then offer the date to another person. If we are unable to let you know when your operation will take place, we will write to you to let you know.

What should I bring to the clinic?

- **A list of your most up to date medications.**

We would like to know what tablets you take. Some medications may have to be stopped before the operation. If you bring your medication list with you, we will be able to advise you on this during your appointment.

- **A list of questions you may have.**

Let us know about anything that worries you or anything you are unsure about. You may have many questions after talking with the surgeon. You can also talk to your nurse/dialysis team or kidney doctor.

This clinic is for assessment only. You will not have the operation on the same day, so you will not need to bring a hospital bag with you.

Parking

Car Park 2 is the closest to the Renal Outpatient's Department. There is parking for disabled Blue Badge holders. Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) is now in place. The ANPR system means a camera photographs all vehicles entering and leaving the car park. The camera is linked to the on-site pay machines and a payment website. ANPR will not impact Blue Badge users.

Contacts

Vascular Access Nurses

Churchill Hospital

Tel: **01865 225 910** or **01865 225 373**

8am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday

(Please leave a message on the answer phone)

Oxford Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) Unit

Tel: **01865 225 792**

(8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday)

Email: **pd.team@ouh.nhs.uk** (between 8.30am and 4.30pm)

Renal Outpatients Department

Tel: **01865 225 355 / 225 356**

(Please leave a message on the answer phone)

Useful websites

Oxford Kidney Unit

Lots of information about the Oxford Kidney Unit for patients and carers.

Website: www.ouh.nhs.uk/oku

Kidney Patient Guide

Information for patients with kidney failure and those who care for them.

Website: www.kidneypatientguide.org.uk

Kidney Care UK

A charity which has lots of practical support and information for people with kidney disease.

Website: www.kidneycareuk.org

Six Counties Kidney Patients Association

The SCKPA is run for patients by patients or family members.

They offer support to people suffering from kidney disease or who are on dialysis. They work closely with the Oxford Kidney Unit and have branches in Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, and Milton Keynes, and parts of Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Berkshire.

Website: www.sixcountieskpa.org.uk

National Kidney Federation

A charity which has lots of practical support and information for people with kidney disease.

Website: www.kidney.org.uk

OUH Patient Portal

Health for Me

Please ask a member of the kidney team to sign you up to the patient portal.

Website: www.ouh.nhs.uk/patient-guide/patient-portal

Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

Author: Jayne Woodhouse, Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Peritoneal Dialysis
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Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
www.ouh.nhs.uk/information



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