

Friday 3 January 2025

Dear GP colleagues,

Temporary transfer of community Cardiology requests for direct access echocardiogram – effective immediately

The community Cardiology team are temporarily transferring long-waiting echocardiogram patients from the community cardiorespiratory service to Willesden Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC). This is because the team are frequently exceeding community echo capacity, which has had a detrimental impact on patients and GPs.

Patients who have breached the standard waiting time will be offered a re-booked appointment in line with our elective access policy, and the team will try to arrange a scan of 3 weeks or more from referral, twice. Unfortunately, if a patient declines an appointment on both occasions, they will be informed this may result in being discharged back to the GP. Elderly patients or those with limited mobility will continue to be seen in the community clinics because we recognise some patients may find it difficult to travel further.

As part of this process, patients will be moved from Systmone to Cerner, with reassigned scans recorded on a weekly basis to maintain oversight of growth within the community setting. Please continue to refer patients via Systmone to be triaged, and to ensure elderly and vulnerable patients are managed in the community. You will be informed of all diverted referrals via letter.

If you require any further information or have any questions, please contact Business Manager, Serena Caliandro via email: serena.caliandro@nhs.net.

Kind regards,

GP Liaison