

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

TIA clinic

You have been referred to the TIA clinic at King's Mill Hospital by your GP or a doctor in the Emergency Department. We have arranged your appointment based on the clinical information your doctor has given us.

If a TIA clinic appointment is required, you will be contacted within 48 hours of your referral being received (excluding weekends and bank holidays) with details of your appointment.

Location of the TIA clinic

Level 5, Tower 3 (pink tower), next to the Sexual Health Department

The TIA clinic has its own entrance, located to the left of the Sexual Health Department. The clinic is clearly signposted.

For any queries, please telephone 01623 622515, extension 2419.

Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions

Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net.

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you. External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. If you require a full list of references (if relevant) for this leaflet, please email sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

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If you are diagnosed with a stroke and need any further therapy or support following your assessment, this will be arranged for you through the Integrated Community Stroke Service (ICSS)

FAST

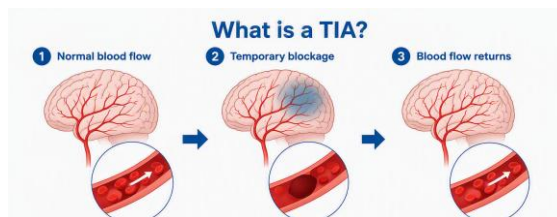
Remember the signs of stroke:

- ☐ **F** = Face 😊 → 😞 **Has the face dropped on one side?**
- ☐ **A** = Arms 🙌 ✖ **Can they raise both arms?**
- ☐ **S** = Speech 💬 **Is speech slurred or difficult to understand?**
- ☐ **T** = Time 📞 **Time to call 999 immediately**

What is a TIA?

A transient ischaemic attack (TIA), sometimes called a mini-stroke, occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is temporarily reduced or blocked. The symptoms are the same as those of a stroke but usually last only a short time and recover completely. A TIA is an important warning sign that you may be at increased risk of having a stroke in the future.

Attending the TIA clinic allows us to investigate the cause of your symptoms and discuss treatments to reduce your risk of stroke. Please continue to take any medication prescribed to you until the appointment date and bring your medications with you on the day.



If you notice:

- Your speech or sight getting worse.
- Weakness of part or all of one side of your body.

Call 999 right away. A stroke team is available at this hospital 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Do not drive until you have been assessed in the clinic. This is in accordance with DVLA regulations when you have had a 'suspected TIA'.

What can I expect at my appointment?

This is a full day one-stop clinic. You will be with us for most of the day. A doctor will review you and then request any relevant tests you may need. They will talk to you about the results of your assessments in the afternoon.

At the end of the day, we will give you:

- A diagnosis.
- A management plan.
- General health advice.

We will try to confirm if your symptoms are because of TIA or another cause. As we are a teaching hospital, there may be medical or nursing students observing some of your tests. You may also be asked to think about taking part in one of our ongoing clinical research studies.

Can I bring someone with me?

You are welcome to bring a friend or a relative with you to the clinic, but they may not always be allowed into the examination rooms. We do not have childcare facilities. If you need to bring your children with you, please bring along an adult who can watch over them while your tests are carried out.

If you need a translator, please let us know before attending your appointment.

What tests will I have in the TIA clinic?

A few tests may be done to confirm a TIA or a stroke. They also look for problems that may have caused it. Not everybody will need to have all the tests. Some of the tests you may need include:

MRI or CT scan of the brain

An MRI scanner is used to make detailed images; it takes about 15 minutes.

Not everyone can have an MRI scan, such as people who have a pacemaker fitted.

You will need to fill in a safety questionnaire before the scan.

Ultrasound scan of the carotid arteries

A carotid ultrasound scan is a painless and harmless way of looking at the arteries in your neck. This can show if there is narrowing or any blockages in the neck arteries leading to your brain.

ECG tracing of your heart rhythm

An electrocardiogram (ECG) records the electrical activity of your heart. An ECG can find abnormal heart rhythms.

Blood pressure measurement

High blood pressure (hypertension) can lead to TIAs.

You will also have blood tests and your height and weight measured.