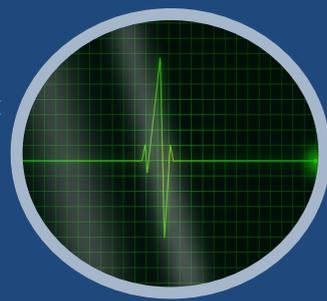


Cardiology service review

What is cardiology?

Cardiology is the medical speciality that involves the diagnosis and treatment of people with diseases or disorders of the heart. Cardiologists are doctors who diagnose and treat patients who might suffer from a range of disorders, including heart attacks, palpitations (the feeling that your heart is pounding or fluttering) or an irregular heartbeat (known medically as atrial fibrillation). Cardiologists may treat heart conditions with medicine or by using procedures such as fitting pacemakers or inserting artery stents.



What is a service review?

A service review involves examining a service area thoroughly to understand which parts of the service are working well and which are not working as well, to find ways to improve the service further for the good of the patient. This may involve looking at department policies and processes, data analysis, speaking often and regularly to the people who use the service and the doctors and nurses who provide them. Once all this information has been gathered, it is used by managers of the service to help them make a plan for improvement.

Cardiology services in the Humber region

Cardiology services are provided at Castle Hill Hospital in Cottingham, Scunthorpe General Hospital and Grimsby's Diana Princess of Wales Hospital. Some very specialised cardiology services are only provided at Castle Hill Hospital for the Humber area - such as open heart surgery, or cardiac MRI scans. There is also a cardiology outpatient service at Goole and District Hospital.

There are community-based cardiology services in Hull and East Yorkshire and North East Lincolnshire staffed by a team with links to the hospital services. The services commissioned by East Riding of Yorkshire CCG and North East Lincolnshire CCG are diagnostic and treatment services, while the service commissioned by Hull CCG is a diagnostic service.

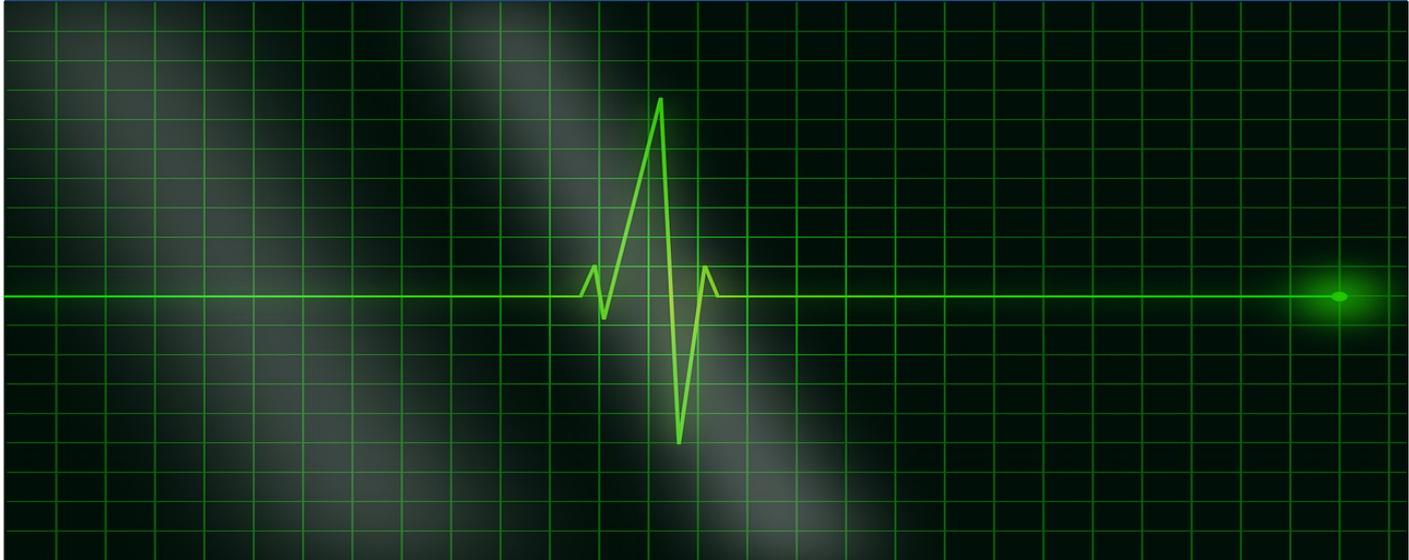


Why do we need to review hospital services in the Humber region?

Advances in medical knowledge and technology have allowed our doctors to develop fantastic services for our hospitals, which, in part, is helping people live longer and survive illnesses that their parents or grandparents might not have. These developments have also enabled more healthcare services to be provided away from hospitals — at GP practices and in the community, for example — while hospitals continue to focus on looking after the most seriously ill patients.

As the ways of delivering care to patients change, an extensive hospital services review is needed to ensure we provide services that are safe and patient-centred, both now and in the future. NHS services need to constantly adapt to provide the best possible care for patients with the resources available. Current challenges, such as rising demand, workforce challenges, finance and quality of care mean that change is necessary to ensure the future of our health services.

Cardiology service review



What happens to cardiology patients in the Humber region?

John has attended an emergency department (either at Hull Royal Infirmary, Scunthorpe General Hospital or Diana Princess of Wales in Grimsby) as an emergency because he is suffering from chest pains. While at hospital, John will see a doctor in A&E, undergo tests and then see a cardiologist. John is likely to be admitted to the hospital's cardiac unit for examination and treatment. For certain types of heart attack that require immediate treatment, he would be transferred to the cardiac unit at Castle Hill Hospital in Cottingham. For the more common types of heart attack, he would remain at Grimsby or Scunthorpe for treatment.

Gill has been referred to hospital by her GP because she has high blood pressure. GP referrals could be for a number of other reasons, such as high cholesterol or symptoms such as discomfort in the chest. Gill, and other non-emergency patients, will usually be examined by the cardiology team within the hospital's outpatients department or, in some cases, by a community cardiology team where these are in place. There, the problem will be explained to them and some tests may be carried out on that day, or at another time. The test results will be reviewed by the cardiologists before they discuss treatment options with Gill. Treatments may include medicines or procedures to try to manage the condition.

Have
your
say

Throughout the review process we are keen to hear from members of the public to ensure their feedback and experiences are reflected in any recommendations made. You can do this in a number of ways:

- Email us: humber.acutereview@nhs.net
- Phone us: 01482 344711
- Write to us: Humber Acute Services Review, c/o NHS Hull CCG, 2nd floor, Wilberforce Court, Alfred Gelder Street, Hull, HU1 1UY

Find out more about the review at humbercoastandvale.org.uk/humberacutereview

