

Ref: FOI/CAD/ID 3028

Please reply to:
FOI Administrator
Trust Management
Service Centre
Maidstone Hospital
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 9QQ
Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net

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Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to acute myocardial infarction (AMI).

Which test(s) does the Trust use to diagnose patients who present with suspected acute myocardial infarction (AMI)? Please give details of tests used - including the brand and name of the test(s).

What, if any, guidelines or protocols does the Trust follow to support the diagnosis of suspected AMI? Please give details.

Does your Trust use early rule-out protocols to diagnose AMI? If so, please give details.

What is the average waiting time for a diagnosis following a suspected AMI at the Trust?

What is the target turn-around-time for tests used in the diagnosis of AMI in the Trust? What percentage of tests are performed within this target turn-around-time?

How long has the Trust and/or hospitals within the Trust been using their current troponin test(s)?

Please see below:

Ashford Hospital is the primary PCI service for AMI for the whole of East and West Kent - so majority of patients with AMI in our area do not come to Accident and Emergency (A+E).

The diagnosis would be made by the ambulance crew at the scene with ECG and clinical assessment - this would be sent electronically to Ashford Hospital and if confirmed (reviewed by Consultant cardiologist on-call), the patient

would go straight to the Cath lab at Ashford hospital and bypass A+E at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust for primary PCI. This is a 24/7 service 365 days/year.

If a patient does not call an ambulance and comes to A+E on their own volition i.e. drives in or is brought in by relative/partner - then the patient will be triaged on arrival.

If the patient has cardiac sounding chest pain they would get an ECG and clinical assessment - AMI may be diagnosed immediately and patient 'blue lighted' by ambulance to Ashford Hospital for primary PCI.

If diagnosis is uncertain a Troponin test will be requested – the Trust uses the Roche Elecsys high-sensitivity troponin test. We have been using this for approximately 3 years and turnaround time is 15mins.