

Clinic Nurses and Children's Cardiac Nurse Specialist Roles in Paediatric Cardiology Clinics

Background

The Government, in recent papers, advocates the importance of providing services that put the needs of children and families first. This highlights the need for professionals to work closely in a cohesive many to ensure the child's needs are met. These guidelines have been devised to assist in delivering a quality service to children and young people with congenital heart disease within the outpatient clinics. Its aim is to clarify nursing roles within the clinic, to provide a high standard of equitable care.

Working in Partnership

Clinic Nurses – The clinic nurse has a number of key functions to assist in the smooth running of the clinic.

- Co-ordinate the running of clinic
- Provide information for families of new patients by explaining what to expect from their visit to help reduce their anxiety.
- Refer any new diagnoses to Cardiac Nurse Specialist team if they are not present in the clinic.
- Provide families with Nurse Specialist leaflets to allow on-going advice and support.
- Provide health education materials; displays, leaflets
- Document height and weight in medical records,
- Assist with organising ECG's, chest x-rays etc (see appendix 1)

If the specialist nurses are not available at the clinic a referral form should be completed or contact the specialist nurses on 0113 3925467.

You also need to contact the child's health visitor by phone or by letter with any new diagnosis.

[The role of the Specialist Nurse within the Cardiac Clinics in District General Hospitals and Sheffield Trust.](#)

BE AN EXPERT RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS by

- Giving condition related information, leaflets, and support group information
- Accompanying families into the consultation so that all the information given by the medical staff can be repeated, explained and reinforced as necessary afterwards using the appropriate models of the heart and diagrams. Even when a family has been given good news, e.g. an innocent murmur parents often need the information giving again to reinforce that there is nothing wrong.
- Ensuring carers of children given a new diagnosis have been given the correct information sheet for their condition and a patient held record folder and know how to use it to access other members of the multidisciplinary team.
- Giving information about facilities and procedures at Leeds
- Helping adolescents gain a better understanding of their condition in order that they can begin to take some responsibility for their own care
- Discussing lifestyle issues E.g. Ability/ inability to take part in sports, compliance with medication regimes, how alcohol can affect medicines, travel, immunisations
- Giving dental/ endocarditis information and advice.
- Being a link with community services such as health visitors, GP's, school

- Providing condition specific health education materials; displays, leaflets.
- Being a resource to staff and providing education to those working in the clinics

Appendix

This appendix has been written to assist the clinic nurses in running the cardiac clinic efficiently. If you are unsure of a diagnosis do not hesitate to ask the cardiologist, paediatrician or nurse specialist attending the clinic.

Who needs an ECG?

Known or suspected rhythm problems

Aortic Stenosis

Marfan's Syndrome – if they have an identified cardiac problem

Chest pain referrals

Kawasaki Disease

Cardiomyopathies

Who needs their BP checking?

Pre and post op coarctation repairs (this should be taken on the right arm)

Post op aortic interruptions

Any new patient with a referral for dizziness/ syncope

Marfan's patients on medication

Who needs their saturations checking?

Any new patient with a referral for "blue episode"

Any patient with cyanotic or complex defect

X-rays

Always at the doctors request. Will either be printed on the clinic list or written in the notes.

Written by Children's Cardiac Specialist Nurse Team. Reviewed
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