

## TIA Clinic

# Transient Ischaemic Attack or “Mini-Stroke”

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## Why is an urgent appointment with a stroke specialist in TIA clinic so important?

You have been referred to the TIA clinic because your doctor thinks you may have had a TIA or “mini stroke”. It is very important that you are seen in clinic as soon as possible to investigate the cause of your symptoms and to start treatment which will reduce the chance of further symptoms or a stroke.

## What do I need to bring?

Please bring a list of all the **tablets** you take.

## What about driving?

**DO NOT DRIVE.** It is not safe for you to drive until you have a diagnosis from the specialist. If the diagnosis is TIA or Stroke, the DVLA regulation is a minimum of one month of not driving.

## What if I have further symptoms before the TIA appointment?

If you think you are having a stroke or have any new neurological symptoms, don't wait until your clinic appointment, call 999 or attend the emergency department.

## What is the cause of the TIA and what are the symptoms?

A TIA is often described as a mini-stroke and this usually takes place because of a blockage in a blood vessel in a part of the brain. The symptoms can be similar to a stroke but a TIA lasts between a few seconds to a few hours. Occasionally it can last up to 24 hours.

Some of the symptoms (known as **FAST** symptoms of stroke) that happen when a person has a TIA include:

- **FACE** droopiness
- Sudden onset of **ARM** or **LEG** weakness
- **SPEECH** with slurring or difficulty finding the right words or understanding what others are saying.
- If you think you are having a stroke or have any new neurological symptoms, don't wait until your clinic appointment, call 999 or attend the emergency department.



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## How is my urgent appointment going to be organised?

- You will receive a phone call from the clinic co-ordinator on 01225 821186 within 24 hrs of your referral or on Monday if you were referred at the weekend.
- You may be called directly by the doctor to ask you for a more detailed history before arranging investigations.
- You may be asked to attend clinic on the same day.
- If you are asked to attend in person you will be seen in other departments for imaging before you are seen by the doctor in the TIA clinic - This will usually happen on the same day

## The tests may include:

- Carotid Doppler (an ultrasound scan of the blood vessels in the neck) in vascular studies which is on the second floor location B56
- MRI or CT brain scan in radiology department B7 which is located on the ground floor
- ECG (heart recording) which will be performed in your clinic appointment at B9 which is located on the ground floor
- Blood tests are performed in B9

## Please expect to be at the hospital several hours.

The specialist will go through your results with you during your clinic appointment.

## What happens now?

The TIA clinic runs daily including weekends.

Monday to Friday, you need to come to Neurology outpatients (B9, Ground floor, near the Atrium/main hospital entrance).

If you have been given a weekend or bank holiday appointment, you will need to come to the Acute Stroke Unit (B6), on the ground floor.

If you have not heard from us within three working days, please ring the TIA clinic co-ordinator on 01225 821186.

If you need to contact us regarding your weekend appointment, please ring the Acute Stroke Unit on 01225 825535.

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## TIA Clinic Appointment Information

Investigation	Location	Time
MRI	B7 (ground floor)	
CT	B7 (ground floor)	
Vascular Studies	B56 (second floor)	
Blood tests	B9 (ground floor)	
ECG	B9 (ground floor)	
TIA clinic	B9 (ground floor)	

Please liaise with the reception team in B9 if you would like further appointment information.



If you would like any further information on Transient Ischaemic Attacks (TIA) please scan the QR code, or follow the link, <https://tinyurl.com/3pdy6hvd> to view the information pages on the NHS website.



Please scan the QR code or use the link below to leave your feedback of the TIA service at the RUH.

<https://www.ruh.nhs.uk/TIAClinic>