

What do I need to bring?

Please bring a list of all the tablets you take - this is very important. If there are other tablets you buy over the counter, please tell us about these.

It is useful for whoever was present when the event happened to give details as well.

What about driving?

It is not safe for you to drive until you have a diagnosis from the specialist.

If the diagnosis is TIA/Stroke, the DVLA regulation is a minimum of one month of not driving.

What if I have further symptoms before the specialist appointment?

If you think you are having a stroke, don't wait, call 999

Appointment Date.....

Time.....

Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust
Combe Park, Bath BA1 3NG
01225 428331 www.ruh.nhs.uk

Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) if you require this leaflet in a different format, or would like to feedback your experience of the hospital. Telephone 01225 825656 or Email ruh-tr.PatientAdviceandLiaisonService@nhs.net

TIA Clinic

(Transient Ischaemic Attack)



This leaflet tells you what to expect when you see the stroke specialist at the RUH

What may have caused my symptoms ?

Possibly a Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA): this can take place because of a temporary blockage in a blood vessel in part of the brain.

This can be similar to a stroke with problems such as weakness, numbness, talking problems or trouble with vision. A TIA is different as it only lasts between a few minutes to a few hours.

There are other possibilities and over half of people attending clinic turn out to have something else.

Why is an urgent appointment with a stroke specialist so important?

About one in ten people who have a TIA develop a stroke within the *next week* BUT we can greatly reduce this with the right treatment.

The right medication can reduce your chance of a stroke, as can changes to your diet and exercise. Rarely an operation may be useful. We'll talk all this over in clinic.

What may we need to do (every case is different)?

- a heart recording (ECG)
- a scan of the arteries in your neck.
- a brain scan
- blood tests

You can expect to be at the clinic for 2-3 hours.

What happens now?

The doctor will give you aspirin or sometimes a similar drug called clopidogrel. You need to take this each day until you are seen in our clinic.

The TIA Clinic runs daily including weekends.

From 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/bank holiday appointment, you will need to come to the Acute Stroke Unit (B6), on the ground floor.

During week days, the clinic secretary **01225 821186** will ring you to tell you when your appointment will be.

If you have not heard from us within three working days, please ring **01225 821186**.

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