

Reference: FOI 30046 BUCKS 14Y

Subject: Diagnostic Investigations

I can confirm that the CCG does hold some of the information requested; please see responses below:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>1. Any care pathways for the investigation and management of patients with symptomatic palpitations and/or syncope referred to cardiac services in your trust by GPs. Of particular interest is the role and positioning of diagnostic investigations such as cardiac rhythm monitoring, cardiac imaging and cardiovascular performance assessment.</p>	<p>No, but in development.</p> <p>We have already presented syncope causes and risk stratification to GPs and are now looking at system audit and pathway change aligned to European Society of Cardiology standards.</p>
<p>2. Details of both national and locally negotiated tariff arrangements applied to this service</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>3. Does the GP have direct access to the cardiac monitoring service?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>4. Is the patient seen by a cardiologist before having the monitor attached?</p>	<p>Not if direct access</p>
<p>5. If not, who undertakes the process (e.g. technician, nurse etc)</p>	<p>Technician</p>
<p>6. What is the first pass monitoring technology (e.g. 24hr, 48hr, 7-day event triggered etc)</p>	<p>Depends on history</p>

7. What happens after the first pass monitoring – are all seen by a cardiologist or is there a pre-appointment triage process?	Report to GP who has access to clinical advice
8. What other tests are ordered (e.g. 12-lead ECG, Echo etc), at which stage in the pathway and for which patients?	High risk syncope patients seen by Cardiologist and will have an echo
9. What determines who is selected for 2nd pass monitoring and what technology is used for this?	New pathway will determine this but will include cryptogenic stroke
10. What determines who is discharged back to the GP?	Risk, symptoms and investigations
11. What is the current tariff for 24 hr, 48 hr, 7-day Holter Monitoring	Average cost per 24 hour ECG test, over the time frame 2014-2019 for ALL Providers = £160.01. *Please note - that each year the cost may change, so this cost is ONLY an average. The others have no tariff
12. What is the tariff for referral to community cardiology investigation clinics	£15 per referral
13. What is the tariff for direct referrals for GPs for 24hr, 48 hr and 7-day Holter Monitoring	No tariff for referrals

The information provided in this response is accurate as of 1 April 2019, and has been authorised for release by Nicola Lester, Director of Transformation for NHS Buckinghamshire CCG.