

## Cardiology Pre Referral Guidance Referral Form Update

### Introduction

The CCG has been working with the Cardiology consultants at Ipswich Hospital to look at various ways to improve pathways and services. This work has enabled the AF pathway to be updated, a new Primary Care Hypertension Pathway to be developed and now the Cardiology Pre Referral Guidance Referral Form to be updated. Feedback had also been received from primary care on the current form and this has been fed into the changes below.

### What has changed?

In consultation with the cardiology consultants the following changes have been made.

| Reason for referral            | Test removed | Test added  |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Breathlessness & Heart Failure | D-Dimer      | Consider Spirometry   |
| Hypertension                   |              | Urinary PCR/ACR<br>24 hour BP monitor/Ambulatory BP or Home BP readings |

Urinary ACR has been included as it has a greater sensitivity for detecting low levels of proteinuria which is the recommended first line test for proteinuria detection.

For specialist advice only, please consider an Advice and Guidance referral. Many cases can be managed in primary care with cardiological advice.

24 hour BP monitor or Home BP readings have been included as some patients in cardiology clinic have had normal 24 hour BP recordings.

Spirometry has been added as a test to consider if there is a potential for pulmonary causes of shortness of breath.

### Start date

The updated version of the PRG will be available on practice clinical systems and CCG website in May.

### Contact details

- CCG GP Cardiology lead – Dr Imaad Khalid
- Alison Sadler [Alison.sadler@ipswichandeastsuffolkccg.nhs.uk](mailto:Alison.sadler@ipswichandeastsuffolkccg.nhs.uk) (Tel: 01473 770291)