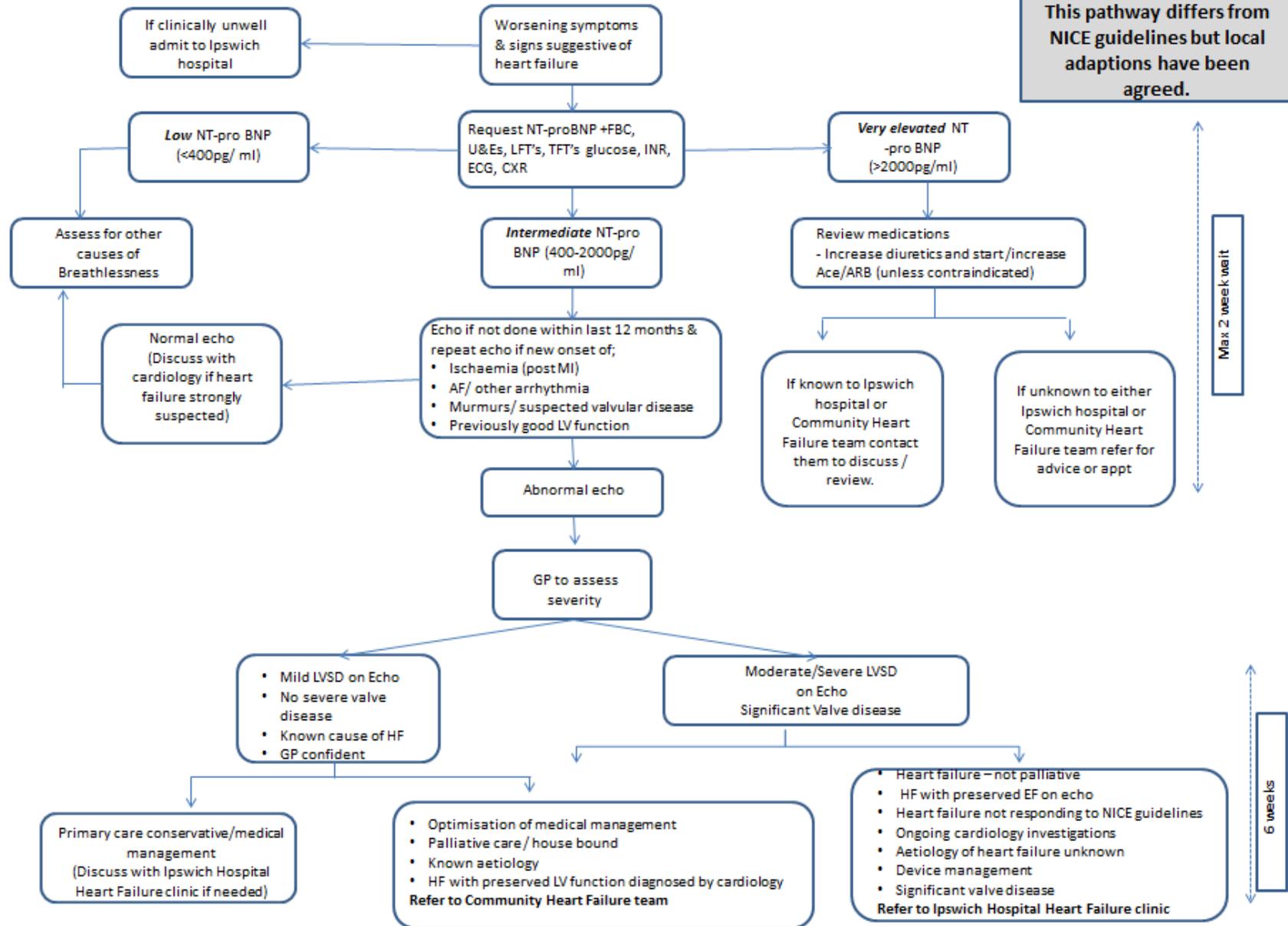


Introduction of Heart Failure pathway incorporating Brain Natriuretic Peptide (BNP) Testing STARTS: April 2015

What is it?
<p>A new Heart Failure pathway incorporating BNP diagnostic test has launched. This test can help identify patients who are at greatest risk of heart failure and act as a cost effective pre-screening ensuring only those deemed at higher risk are referred on for specialist assessment with echocardiography.</p> <p>BNP levels of more than 100 pg/ml have a greater than 95% specificity and greater than 98% sensitivity when comparing patients without congestive heart failure (CHF) to all patients with CHF. Hence a normal BNP excludes heart failure and so echo is not needed.</p> <p>http://www.patient.co.uk/doctor/brain-natriuretic-peptide</p> <p>BNP is a serum sample (Brown bottle) and can be spun down in surgeries that have the need/facility to do so for later delivery.</p>
What is included – the scope of the pathway
<p>In scope NT-proBNP costs around £20.00 per test. NT-proBNP is used if the clinical presentation raises the possibility of Heart Failure. If patients has signs and symptoms suggestive of heart failure please ensure that the following clinical investigations are undertaken NT-proBNP (this is the prohormone of BNP), FBC, U&Es, LFT's, TFT's, glucose, INR, ECG and CXR (may not be required if undertaken in last 6/12)</p>
How does it work?
<p>This test can be ordered and returned through ICE from April 2015.</p> <p>Results from the BNP test If the results show a normal level (<400 pg/ml) the patient is highly unlikely to have heart failure and the GP should investigate other causes for the symptoms.</p> <p>If the results show an elevated level (>2000g/ml) – will need specialist assessment. See Heart Failure pathway</p> <p>If the results show an intermediate level (400-2000g/ml) – can be managed in primary care or community heart failure team. See Heart Failure pathway</p> <p>NT-proBNP levels can be raised in other conditions such as PEs, Renal Failure</p> <p>NT-proBNP levels fall with diuretic use, ACE inhibitors.</p> <p>The pathway is attached and will also be available on the CCG website and Map of Medicine.</p>
Start date
<p>This pathway will start in April 2015.</p>
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Ipswich Hospital & Ipswich & East Suffolk CCG – Previous Diagnosis of Heart Failure in Primary Care Final (V6.1 April 2015)



Ipswich Hospital & Ipswich & East Suffolk CCG – New Diagnosis of Heart Failure in Primary Care Final (V6.1 April 2015)

