

Ref. No: 0642  
Date: 26/01/24  
Subject: Cardioversions

## REQUEST

1. What are your current waiting times for cardioversion?
2. What do you have in place for patients who are an anaesthetic risk?  
Are they still done in the pacing room, or do you have an arrangement with theatre?
3. What is your follow up schedule for successful cardioversions?
4. Do you have exclusions from consideration for cardioversion?
5. What are your success rates?

## RESPONSE

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023, as such parts of the response may be provided in two sections relating to the hospital sites of each of the legacy organisations.

1. What are your current waiting times for cardioversion?

St Helens and Knowsley:

Our current wait time is approximately 15 – 19 weeks (with 2 extra lists planned).

Southport and Ormskirk:

Our current wait time is approximately 6-8 weeks at present.

2. What do you have in place for patients who are an anaesthetic risk?  
Are they still done in the pacing room, or do you have an arrangement with theatre?

St Helens and Knowsley:

Patients are generally cardioverted in our pacing room. We consider all cardiac patients to be a high anaesthetic risk, however, if there are concerns regarding specific patients these are discussed with an anaesthetist and if needed a space in theatres is arranged.

Southport and Ormskirk:

All cardioversions are done in theatre (anaesthetic room).

**3. What is your follow up schedule for successful cardioversions?**

St Helens and Knowsley:

Patients are reviewed post cardioversion in a post cardioversion clinic at 4 – 6 weeks following the procedure, exceptions include those who have a close pre-existing general cardiology appointment.

Southport and Ormskirk:

Outpatient department follow up post-cardioversion is 6 weeks.

**4. Do you have exclusions from consideration for cardioversion?**

St Helens and Knowsley:

Most patients referred for cardioversion go on to have the procedure, however, patients who are completely asymptomatic with normal LV systolic function, significantly raised BMI, or following discussion with the patient it is felt it is not in their best interests, are excluded.

Southport and Ormskirk:

No specific exclusions, but cardioversion would only be advised for those likely to gain symptomatic benefit and with a reasonable chance of success and maintaining sinus rhythm.

**5. What are your success rates?**

St Helens and Knowsley:

We currently do not audit this.

Southport and Ormskirk:

Last audited in 2018 - success rate was 88%.