

Hampshire: Poole Hospital – Consultant-lead AF Clinic now open to ‘Choose and Book’ referrals

Launched in January 2011 and lead by Consultant Cardiologist Dr Diane Bruce, Pool Hospital's AF/ Atrial Flutter Clinic has become so busy that the number of weekly appointments has been increased. Aimed to particularly support those who are either newly diagnosed or with AF which is proving problematic to successfully manage, the clinic has also just expanded its services to include GP 'Choose and Book' referrals.

For those with AF, the clinic provides quick access to an experienced consultant cardiology opinion and, if needs be, prompt commencement of Class 1c drugs, refer for cardioversion or PVI / AV Node ablation.

While associated cardiac conditions which may be contributing to the AF, such as ischaemic heart disease, can also be managed. As far as is possible, a one stop clinic is operated, although flexible enough to be able to arrange appropriate follow up in other cardiology clinics, when necessary. Benefits of this clinic include a reduction in any unnecessary admissions, immediate communication with the local GP via a typed summary on the hospital computer and then faxed to the GP the same day, as well as any patients requiring DCV are sent straight up for pre-clerking on the same ward that they will be admitted to for their DCV, on the day and also the referrals for anticoagulation clinic are made the same day. Information leaflets are also shared, so that greater understanding and a point of call for further information is also made available straight away.

To date the clinic has worked well and is currently being audited.