



Patient & Family Guide
2025

24-hour Cardiology Transfer Service



www.nshealth.ca

24-hour Cardiology Transfer Service

We understand that this is a very stressful time for you and your loved ones. Please ask your health care team any questions you may have.

Your health care provider has decided that you need the care of a cardiologist (heart doctor) and to have a test called a cardiac catheterization (dye test).

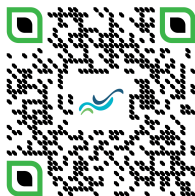
What is a cardiac catheterization (dye test)?

- This is a test that is done to look at the arteries that supply your heart with blood and oxygen, and how well your heart and valves are working.
- For more information about dye tests and what to expect, please ask a member of your health care team for pamphlet 0718, *Cardiac Catheterization (Dye Test)*, scan the QR code on the next page, or visit:
 - › www.nshealth.ca/patient-education-resources/0718

Scan the QR code on your smartphone (open the camera on your smartphone, point the camera at the code, and tap the banner or border that appears)



- You can also watch a video about what happens before, during, and after a dye test at the Halifax Infirmary (H.I.) site of the QE II hospital. Scan the QR code below or visit:
 - › <https://library.nshealth.ca/Cardiac-Services>



Where is this test done?

- This test is done at the QE II Hospital at the Halifax Infirmary (H.I.) site.
- When a bed at the H.I. is ready for you, you will be transferred there in an ambulance.
- You will spend 1 or 2 nights at the H.I.
- The test is usually done on the same day that you arrive. You will stay at the H.I. overnight after your test. Usually, you will be discharged the next morning. Your referring health care provider and your cardiologist will decide how long you stay in the hospital.

What will happen while I am waiting to be transferred to the H.I.?

- You will stay at your referring hospital while you are waiting to be transferred. During this time, your doctors and nurses will:
 - › Answer any questions you may have about your possible condition
 - › Answer any questions you may have about the test
 - › Help you plan for when you go home after your test
- If your referring health care provider thinks that you will be able to be discharged the morning after your dye test (this depends on the results of your test), your health care team will help you plan:
 - › How you will get home (with a loved one and/or a support person, or by medical transport service)
 - › When you will be seen for follow-up care

What will happen when I am transferred to the H.I.?

- When you arrive, you will be admitted to the hospital on the Cardiac Short Stay Unit (6.1B).
- The nurses on the unit will make sure you are ready for the test.

- The interventional cardiologist (the doctor who will do the test) will meet with you before the test. They will:
 - › talk with you and answer any questions you have about your test.
 - › get your consent to do the test.
- After the test, you will go back to your room. Your health care team will go over your discharge plan with you and tell you about any changes, if needed.

What will happen when I am discharged from the H.I.?

- When you are being discharged, your health care team will give you information about:
 - › New medication(s)
 - › Medication(s) that you need to stop taking and for how long
 - › When to contact your primary health care provider (family doctor or nurse practitioner)
 - › Symptoms that need emergency medical treatment

If you have not been given a follow-up appointment from your primary health care provider 6 weeks after being discharged, call them to make an appointment.

How will I get home or back to my referring hospital from the H.I.?

- Your health care team will help you plan for this. Depending on your needs, you may:
 - › Ask a loved one or a support person to pick you up at the H.I. The doctor on the unit will let you know if there are specific instructions for your discharge.
 - › Use a medical transport service. The service will drive you to the entrance of your referring hospital and you can go home from there. **This is not available in all areas of Nova Scotia.**
 - › Go back to your referring hospital in an ambulance.

After you are discharged:

- You may go home and go back to your usual or modified activities (as told by your doctor or nurse when you are discharged) until your follow-up appointment.

Call your primary health care provider if you have:

- Any of these symptoms noted by your health care provider:

or

- **Any symptoms in the *Cardiac Catheterization (Dye Test)* pamphlet (see page 1), including:**
 - › Fever (temperature above 38 °C or 100.4 °F) or chills
 - › Pus at the puncture site
 - › A firm lump at the puncture site that does not get smaller or softer after applying pressure for 5 minutes
 - › Severe (very bad) pain in your hand

If you cannot reach your primary health care provider, go to the nearest Emergency Department. Do not drive yourself.

Notes:

This pamphlet is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice or professional judgment of a health care provider. The information may not apply to all situations. If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

Find all patient education resources here:
www.nshealth.ca/patient-education-resources

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time:
Call 811 or visit: <https://811.novascotia.ca>

Prepared by: 24-hour Cardiology Transfer Service
Designed and Managed by: Library Services

WG85-2315 © November 2025 Nova Scotia Health Authority
To be reviewed November 2028 or sooner, if needed.
Learn more: <https://library.nshealth.ca/patient-education-resources>