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 this pamphlet and all our patient resources here:
https://library.nshealth.ca/Patients-Guides

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

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Patient & Family Guide

2024

Non-invasive Vascular Lab Tests

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www.nshealth.ca

QEII Health Sciences Centre

is made up of 10 buildings located on two sites

Halifax Infirmary Site

1a. Halifax Infirmary
1b. Emergency Dept.

2. Abbie J. Lane Memorial Building

3. Camp Hill Veterans' Memorial Building

VG Site

4. Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre

5. Bethune Building

6. Mackenzie Building Laboratories

7. Centre for Clinical Research

8. Dickson Building

9. Victoria Building

10. Centennial Building

Ⓟ Patient Parking

▶ Entrance Doors

Please do not wear scented products when you come to the QEII.

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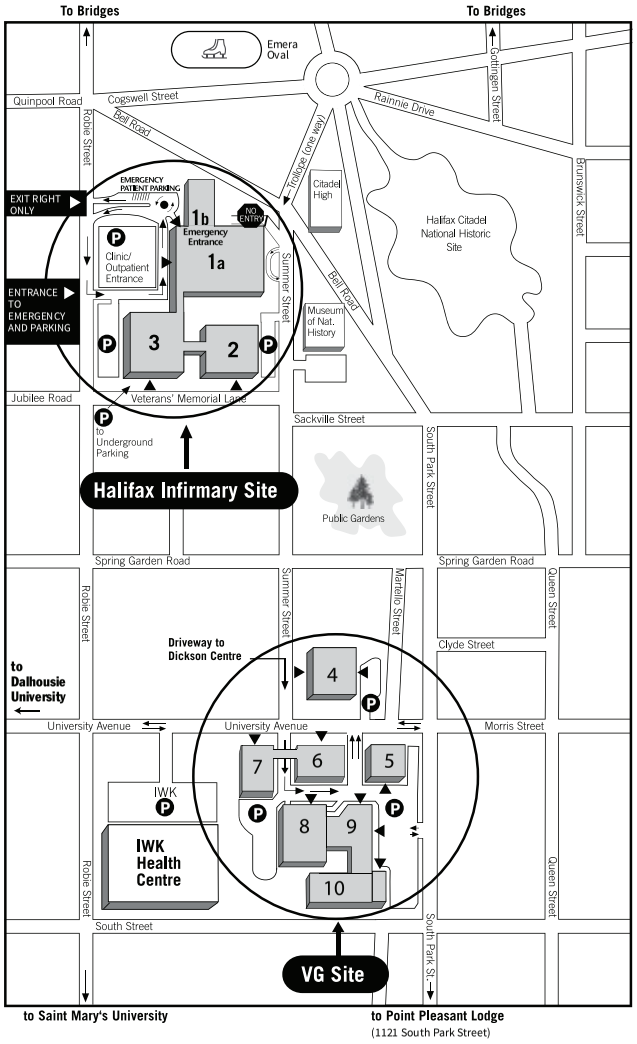

Blood flow evaluation of your fingers and/or toes

- We will tape or clip small plastic sensors on your fingers and/or toes.
- We may also put small blood pressure cuffs on your fingers or toes.
- We will record the pulse in your fingers or toes.
- We may warm or cool your hands or feet to check your pulse at different temperatures.
- This test will take about 60 minutes (1 hour).

Contact:

Non-invasive Vascular Diagnostic Lab
Vascular Surgery Clinic
4th Floor, Halifax Infirmary
› Phone: 902-473-3512

Non-invasive Vascular Lab Tests

- The Vascular Lab has special testing equipment that can tell us about the pressure and amount of blood flowing through your arteries (the blood vessels that carry blood away from your heart) and veins (the blood vessels that carry blood back to your heart). Ask a staff member which test you will be having.
- For most tests, you will be asked to lie on an exam table. You may also be asked to sit or stand.
- The tests will not hurt.
- The tests **do not** have side effects.
- You will not get any injections.
- Wear loose, comfortable clothing and footwear.
  - **Do not** wear tights or pantyhose.
  - If you wear compression stockings, take them off before your appointment.
- If you need to fast (not eat) before your tests:
  - You will get instructions before your tests.

Tests

Ankle Brachial Index (ABI) blood flow test

- We will place blood pressure cuffs on both of your arms and legs. We will record the pressure in your arms and in your ankles.
- We will use a device shaped like a pencil to measure the blood flow in your arteries.
- The test will take about 20 to 30 minutes.

Treadmill exercise test

- We will ask you to walk on a treadmill.
- We will watch you closely during this time.
- Tell a member of your health care team if you feel pain in your legs or chest, or have any trouble breathing. We will stop the treadmill right away.
- After you walk on the treadmill, we will ask you to lie down on a stretcher. We will check the pressure in your arm and ankle.
- The test will take about 15 to 20 minutes.

Arterial duplex test

- This is an ultrasound to check the blood flow in the arteries in your arms or legs.
- We will put gel over your skin in the area that is being tested. Then we will move an ultrasound probe (a small device that looks like a stick) over your skin.
- The test will take about 30 minutes.

Carotid duplex evaluation

- This is an ultrasound to check the blood flow in your carotid arteries (these arteries are in your neck that deliver blood to your brain).
- We will put gel on your neck. Then we will move an ultrasound probe over your skin.
- The test will take about 15 to 30 minutes.

Venous duplex ultrasound

- This is an ultrasound to check the blood flow at different levels in the veins in your legs.
- We will put gel on your legs. Then we will move an ultrasound probe over your skin.
- The technologist will squeeze different parts of your legs to check your blood flow. This will not hurt.
- The test will take about 15 to 30 minutes.