

**Cambridgeshire, West Suffolk and  
West Norfolk Vascular Network**

**Interim Standard Operating Procedure**

**Management of EMERGENCY Vascular Patients (Arterial) with  
RUPTURED AAA & ACUTELY ISCHAEMIC LIMBS**

**at Peterborough City Hospital and arranging emergency secondary  
transfer to Addenbrooke's Hospital**

Version	8.0
Ratified by	Cambridgeshire, West Suffolk & West Norfolk Vascular Network Steering Group
Authorised by	XXXX Vascular Network Clinical Director
Date Authorised	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> August 2013
<b>Effective from</b>	<b><u>TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2013</u></b>
Review Date	September 2013 meeting of Vascular Network Steering Group Date TBC (provisionally scheduled for 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2013)
Target Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Department Staff</li> <li>• On-call Vascular Consultants</li> <li>• On-call Vascular/General Surgery Registrars</li> <li>• Site Management/Bed Management/Patient flow</li> <li>• Operational/On-Call Managers</li> </ul>
Objective	To ensure optimised patient care in line with evidence base and provide for timely, safe, transfer of patients to definitive care.
Responsibility	CONSULTANT responsible for the patient (If Consultants are off-site, out of hours, the most senior person involved in patient care should initiate the discussion/referral)
Trigger	Confirmed/highly suspected arterial vascular emergency (Ruptured AAA & Acutely Ischaemic Limb)
Originating/Reference Policy	Operational Policy (DRAFT Version 5)
Related specific clinical pathways (contained within Operational Policy for reference)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruptured AAA</li> <li>• Acute Limb Ischaemia</li> </ul>

## PETERBOROUGH CITY HOSPITAL (PCH)

### **Step 1 – Patient presents with suspected vascular (arterial) emergency RUPTURED AAA OR ACUTE LIMB ISCHAEMIA**

**to PCH Emergency Department or is identified in any other clinical area of the hospital**

Provide immediate resuscitation/correction of any life threatening problems with Airway, Breathing, Circulation

#### **SUSPECTED RUPTURED AAA**

**If in ED, advise on-call CONSULTANT in Emergency Medicine NOW  
If elsewhere, advise on-call CONSULTANT in charge of patient NOW**

**If Consultants are off-site, out of hours, the most senior person involved in patient care should initiate discussion/referral.**

If it is suspected that the patient has a ruptured AAA, perform urgent Ultrasound Scan (USS) to confirm presence of AAA and estimate size. Perform in ED where available or in radiology.

**USS shows AAA =** contact the On-Call Consultant Vascular Surgeon at Addenbrooke's (follow step 2 below)  
**USS shows no AAA =** assess for other causes of illness and refer locally as required  
**USS equivocal =** perform CT scan with IV contrast using an aortic protocol

#### **ACUTE LIMB ISCHAEMIA**

If you are concerned about an ischaemic limb:

- a) Discuss your concerns with the appropriate CONSULTANT first
- b) Contact the on-call Consultant Vascular Surgeon at Addenbrooke's. FOLLOW STEP 2.

**CONTACT THE ON-CALL VASCULAR CONSULTANT FOR CLINICAL ADVICE/DECISION SUPPORT IF IN DOUBT AS TO PRESENTATION OR MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR PATIENT. FOLLOW STEP 2**

**CT IMAGES SHOULD ALWAYS BE SENT VIA IMAGE LINK TO ADDENBROOKE'S**

### **Step 2 – Contact On-Call Consultant Vascular Surgeon at Addenbrooke's**

Telephone 01223 245151. Request on-call Consultant Vascular Surgeon. Stay on the line. Once connected proceed to Step 3.

**Step 3 – Discuss clinical assessment, working diagnosis and management plan for patient with On-Call Consultant Vascular Surgeon at Addenbrooke’s**  
**PROVIDE YOUR CALL-BACK NUMBER TO THE ON-CALL CONSULTANT VASCULAR SURGEON**

The outcome of the discussion will be one of the following:

- 1) Immediate emergency transfer of patient from Peterborough City Hospital to Addenbrooke’s Hospital is indicated
- 2) Emergency transfer of patient is not indicated – further investigations required – then re-contact Addenbrooke’s as required
- 3) Patient to be managed locally (remains at Peterborough City Hospital)

IF PATIENT IS TO BE TRANSFERRED – AWAIT CALL BACK FROM ON-CALL CONSULTANT VASCULAR SURGEON AT ADDENBROOKE’S TO CONFIRM WHERE PATIENT IS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO PRIOR TO CONTACTING AMBULANCE SERVICE TO BOOK TRANSFER

**ALL COMMUNICATIONS MUST BE DOCUMENTED IN THE PATIENT NOTES. DOCUMENT NAME OF REFERRING CONSULTANT, NAME OF ON-CALL CONSULTANT VASCULAR SURGEON AT ADDENBROOKE’S, TIME OF CALL, AND OUTCOME OF CONSULT/DECISION**  
**If patient is to be transferred to Addenbrooke’s – proceed to Step 4**

**Step 4 – Arrange for IMMEDIATE, EMERGENCY (Blue Light) transfer with ambulance service**

Dial 01603 888060. Request immediate emergency transfer from PCH ED (or state clinical area if different) to Addenbrooke’s.

**STATE – ‘EMERGENCY VASCULAR PATIENT TRANSFER – RUPTURED AAA OR ACUTELY ISCHAEMIC LIMB’**

(AS IN STEP 3, CONFIRM WITH ON-CALL CONSULTANT VASCULAR SURGEON AT ADDENBROOKE’S WHERE PATIENT IS GOING TO AT ADDENBROOKE’S)

Answer all questions asked.

**Document time of booking, ambulance service reference number and authorising doctor in patient notes.**

**IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SENIOR DOCTOR TO DETERMINE IF A MEDICAL TEAM ESCORT (AND WHAT SKILL LEVEL) IS REQUIRED BASED ON THE PATIENT’S CONDITION AND LIKELY REQUIREMENT FOR CLINICAL INTERVENTION DURING TRANSFER.**  
**DOCUMENT DECISIONS & RATIONALE IN PATIENT NOTES**

**Step 5 – IMMEDIATELY prepare patient for transfer and identify escort**

Clinically re-assess patient. Identify escort to accompany patient according to clinical need/likely requirement during transfer, whilst minimising any potential delay.

Ensure effective pain management/IV access as required.

**DO NOT X-MATCH BLOOD PRIOR TO TRANSFER. BLOOD CANNOT BE TRANSPORTED.**

**A PARAMEDIC AMBULANCE MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE. DO NOT ASSUME CLINICAL SKILL LEVEL OF AMBULANCE PERSONNEL**

**IF AT ANY POINT PRIOR TO TRANSFER THERE IS CONCERN THAT THE PATIENT IS NOT FIT TO UNDERTAKE JOURNEY RE-CONTACT THE ON-CALL CONSULTANT VASCULAR SURGEON AT ADDENBROOKE’S FOLLOWING STEP 2.**

**Step 6 – On arrival of the transferring ambulance provide thorough handover and briefing to all personnel and those who will escort the patient**

Ensure all pertinent information relayed and that documentation is completed and sent with patient.

**Step 7 – Referring hospital staff MUST call Addenbrooke’s Emergency Department to confirm that the patient is en-route to Addebrooke’s when they leave the hospital/department.**

Call 01223 274635. State emergency vascular patient has left PCH and time of departure.  
CONFIRM PATIENT DETAILS SO THAT THE PATIENT CAN BE PRE-REGISTERED AHEAD OF ARRIVAL

## Cambridge University Hospitals (Addenbrooke's) Emergency Department (ED)

**Step 1 – On-Call Consultant Vascular Surgeon for Addenbrooke's Contacts Emergency Physician in Charge (EPIC) via Contact Centre (bleep 156 2226) or in case of difficulty, contacts ED Resus on 01223 274635 and asks to speak with EPIC**

Patient discussed between On-Call Consultant Vascular Surgeon and EPIC. If a decision is made to transfer the patient, EPIC must agree that it is safe at that moment in time to transfer the patient to the ED (given capacity and actual/expected workload in the department).

**If not, an alternative destination at CUH MUST be determined and communicated to the referring Consultant.**

**Step 2 – If the decision is made between the On-Call Consultant Vascular Surgeon at Addenbrooke's and EPIC to transfer the patient from Peterborough City Hospital to Addenbrooke's ED then EPIC will inform the Nurse in Charge.**

**Step 3 – Peterborough City Hospital staff will contact Addenbrooke's ED staff via 01223 274635 (ED Resus) to advise when the patient has left Peterborough City Hospital and is en-route. Patient details must be confirmed.**

EPIC and the Nurse in Charge **MUST** be informed when this call is received. **INFORM NOW**  
Prepare to receive the patient.

**ENSURE PATIENT IS PRE-REGISTERED**

**Step 3 – Upon Patient Arrival in Addenbrooke's ED**

FACILITATE HANDOVER & IMMEDIATELY RE-ASSESS PATIENT. INITIATE TREATMENT AS REQUIRED

- 1) Contact On-Call Vascular or General Surgical Registrar and request attendance in ED Resus **IMMEDIATELY** (IF NOT ALREADY)
- 2) Contact On-Call Consultant Vascular Surgeon via switchboard and advise of patient arrival

**ENSURE ACTIONS AND TIMES OF CALL/REQUESTS DOCUMENTED IN PATIENT NOTES**

**Step 3 – Support the On-Call Vascular or General Surgical Registrar, and On-Call Consultant Vascular Surgeon with patient assessment & decision making as required**

**Step 5 – Prepare for, and facilitate a Safe Emergency Transition or routine transfer from the Emergency Department to designated area as required (Theatres, Critical Care, Ward)**

# Cambridge University Hospitals (Addenbrooke's)

## Vascular Consultant On-Call

**\*\*WHEN ON CALL – ENSURE MOBILE TELEPHONE AND LONG RANGE PAGER OPERABLE\*\***

**CONTACT CENTRE WILL CONTACT HOME LANDLINE IF NO RESPONSE TO MOBILE, LONG RANGE PAGE OR IN CASE OF MOBILE/PAGING NETWORK FAILURE**

### Step 1 – RESPOND TO TELEPHONE CALL OR PAGE

Addenbrooke's Contact Centre connects call to referring Consultant at Peterborough City Hospital ED or other clinical area as required.

### Step 2 – In conjunction with referring CONSULTANT determine management plan for patient

Determine action to be taken:

- 1) Immediate emergency transfer of patient from Peterborough City Hospital to Addenbrooke's Hospital is indicated
- 2) Emergency transfer of patient is not indicated – further investigations required – then re-contact Addenbrooke's as required
- 3) Patient to be managed locally (remains at Peterborough City Hospital)

### Step 3 – If decision is made to transfer patient to Addenbrooke's

- 1) Obtain call-back number where referring Consultant at Peterborough City Hospital can be reached
- 2) Contact Emergency Physician in Charge (EPIC) at Addenbrooke's ED via Contact Centre – 01223 245151 - and ask for EPIC to be paged on 156 2226. In case of difficulty, ED Resus can be contacted directly on 01223 274635. Request to speak with EPIC.
- 3) Liaise with EPIC as to requirement to transfer patient from Peterborough. Ensure Addenbrooke's ED has the capacity, and it is safe, to accept the transfer at this time.
- 4) **Ensure patient details are exchanged so that pre-registration of the patient can take place.**
- 5) If it is not safe to accept the patient in ED, determine a safe alternative destination.
- 6) Telephone the referring Consultant at Peterborough and confirm a) destination at Addenbrooke's where patient is to be transferred to, b) advise referring Consultant to book emergency transfer as per Standard Operating Procedure.

### Step 4 – Contact On-Call Vascular or General Surgical Registrar at Addenbrooke's to advise that a patient has been accepted and attendance will be required in ED/other specified location

Dial 01223 245151 (external) or dial 100 (internal).

Ask for appropriate on-call registrar to be paged. Stay on the line while responds.

**IF A DECISION IS MADE TO FACILITATE AN EMERGENCY TRANSFER FOR THE PATIENT ON GROUNDS OF CLINICAL NEED – THE ON-CALL CONSULTANT SURGEON OR APPROPRIATE REGISTRAR MUST INITIATE CONTACT WITH RADIOLOGY, THEATRES, ANAESTHETICS AND BE IN ATTENDANCE IN ED TO RECEIVE THE PATIENT.**

**Step 5 – On arrival at Addenbrooke's (if not on site), make contact with ED resus and/or on-call registrar to determine if patient has arrived**