



SPECIALIST
CARDIAC
Diagnosics Ltd

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Susan Jamieson BSE ASCT DMS

Professional Profile:

- British Society of Echocardiography Accreditation
- Cardiac Physiologist – 22 years
- Senior Chief Cardiac Physiologist and Manager of Cardiac Department Royal London Hospital – 10 years
- Currently sub-contracted to provide community echocardiography and cardiology services in Brent and Bexley Heath
- Specialist subject – Echocardiography
- Advanced Echocardiography Clinical Applications Specialist involved in teaching advanced Echocardiography across Europe – 17 months
- Faculty member – UCH Intensive Care Echocardiography
- RCCP registered



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Background:

- London has one of the fastest growing populations and it is predicted to further increase by 2026. This increase will require an expansion of available medical services.
- London has a truly multi-cultural society and this is also associated with a vast variety of medical conditions which are of particular prevalence to each ethnic group.
- There is a varied age range within London with a predicted increase in the elderly population due to advances in medicine
- London Residents range from the very poor to the very rich which brings varied health support requirements



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Heart Disease in the United Kingdom:

- Heart and Circulatory disease is the biggest killer in the United Kingdom
- The heart is also affected by many other clinical conditions and treatments
- There are approximately 124 000 heart attacks in the UK every year
- Cardiovascular disease costs the UK economy 30 billion a year
- Death rates due to cardiovascular disease is on the decline in the UK due to improvements in diagnosis, treatment and follow-up
- Due to improved techniques and increased community services there is a reduced admission to hospital rate and once admitted the length of stay in hospital has also reduced
- Ground breaking progress has been made in the management and survival rates of heart failure patients due to the development of specialist community heart failure clinics



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The role of Echocardiography in the diagnosis and management of cardiovascular disease:

- Echocardiography is a non-invasive procedure which enables the clinician to obtain excellent images of the structure and function of the heart and its components
- Echocardiography is not only an excellent tool for diagnosing cardiac disease and monitoring its progress it can also be used to rule out the heart being the cause of certain symptoms patients may experience and reassure them.
- There is little risk for the patient having an echocardiogram but important clinical information can be obtained
- Echocardiography needs to be carried out by an experienced accredited practitioner



Non-invasive tests also available:

- **ECG**
- **24 hr ambulatory ECG monitoring**
- **24 hr ambulatory blood pressure monitoring**

ECG:

The ECG is a brief test which can provide important information about the rate and rhythm of the patient's heart and if there is damage to the muscle.

24hr ambulatory ECG monitoring:

The 24hr ambulatory ECG monitoring enables monitoring of the rhythm of the patients heart whilst undertaking their normal daily activities. This is essential to diagnose intermittent cardiac arrhythmias which can be associated with symptoms such as palpitations or syncope.

24hr ambulatory blood pressure monitoring:

Ambulatory blood pressure monitoring provides a more accurate measurement of the patient's blood pressure whilst they undertake their normal daily activities. This method also excludes 'white coat syndrome' and ensures that early diagnose enables initiation of correct treatments.

The equipment for these tests will be supplied along with a report on the findings including follow-up advice



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Why bring Echocardiography and non-invasive cardiology to the community?

- Patients receive the same excellent British Society of Echocardiogram standards of the major London hospitals but in their own community setting
- GPs will have instant access to important clinical cardiovascular information along with follow-up advice. This will enable them to make an appropriate referral, manage their patient with follow-up in the community or reassure the patient where cardiovascular disease is ruled out.
- Better use of resources not only on the community level but also in the hospitals as more patients can be seen and unnecessary referrals will not be made which will enable hospitals to concentrate on patients with confirmed heart disease
- Improved patient experience and pathway
- Community Heart Failure Nurses can access this service which will support the service they provide for patients
- Reduction in Cardiac Deaths in London due to early diagnosis



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Business proposal:

Why use my services?

- I have 10 years experience of leading the Cardiac Department of The Royal London Hospital with extensive knowledge of how to provide a high quality service meeting the needs of the diverse local population
- I have 22 years Cardiology experience including invasive and non-invasive cardiology and have specialised advanced echocardiography skills. I have taught advanced echocardiography techniques across Europe
- I am currently sub-contracted to provide a community cardiology service in Brent and Bexley Heath
- I am committed to improving cardiovascular health in my community and believe in direct access
- Strict Quality Assurance processes are used with an external British Society of Echocardiography accredited clinician performing monthly audits on studies I perform. A qualified clinician audits all remaining tests and reports.
- I have access to Cardiologists to ask advice or review any complex cases
- As a conclusion of my clinical report I will use my clinical experience to advise the General Practitioner to either admit the patient, refer to Cardiologist, refer for follow-up community echo or testing in a specified time or reassure patient no significant abnormality found
- DVDs with images can be supplied to Cardiologists



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What do I provide as part of my Community Echocardiography and cardiac diagnostic service?

- I will bring a portable echocardiography scanning machine, ECG machine and ambulatory monitors to the GP surgery and perform a clinic in one of the surgeries clinic rooms
- I will perform echocardiograms to British society of Echocardiography standards and produce a report of clinical findings which will include a conclusion for GPs advising them on follow-up advice
- I will perform ECGs to SCST standards and attach ambulatory monitors providing clinical reports and advice on follow-up.
- If serious cardiac conditions are diagnosed direct admission to hospital via Accident and Emergency or urgent admission through the on-call GP for the surgery
- I will ensure Quality Assurance processes are in place and my studies are regularly audited by an external British Society of Echocardiography clinician
- I will discuss complex cases with a Cardiologist
- I will adhere to all national infection control and health and safety guidelines
- I will adhere to information governance laws
- I will maintain a back-up of reports and images
- I will provide a high level of customer service
- I will supply a copy of images for hospitals if required



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So how would the clinics look?

- The location of the cardiac clinics will be agreed with the individual CCGs
- Suitable dates for the clinic can be negotiated with each GP surgery for the year ahead to enable surgeries to book patients into clinics and ensure they attend
- An agreed number of test slots would be purchased and GP surgeries and community heart failure teams can book patients in directly for their surgery
- If there is a requirement to expand services this can be negotiated
- An electronic referral form will be supplied to every surgery which must be completed for every patient to provide me with the relevant clinical detail to enable me to provide a clinical outcome
- The clinic times can be flexible to ensure that the patient pathway is cost effective and suits the surgery
- A clinical report will be supplied either electronically or hard copy depending on surgery preference

A full audit will be carried out and recorded every month by an external British Society of Echocardiography Clinician for Quality Assurance purposes and records will be available for inspection



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Charges:

- Charges are based on the current national tariff rate for each test and will be made for each slot made available (payment is not based on whether patient attends or if slot is filled, this is the responsibility of each surgery)
- If a copy of a study is required on DVD to be sent to a Cardiologist the cost of the DVD and the secure transport will be charged locally
- Significant notice would be given to each surgery to enable them to fill the slots and make adequate plans for a suitable clinical room to be made available