

# **Non-conveyance to Hospital of Patients Presenting with Chest Pain or Atypical Chest Pain and Troponin Testing**

Sheffield  
LMC



## **GUIDANCE FOR SHEFFIELD GPs**

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It has been brought to our attention that some patients being attended to appropriately by Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) 999 services, with chest pain, are declining onward transfer to the Emergency Department. This puts the ambulance crews in a difficult situation, but patients with capacity are allowed self-determination, even if against medical advice. For those patients not requiring the Emergency Department, then direct referral to the Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) Unit is an option for some cardiac issues.

The ambulance crews are recommending the patient seeks further medical advice from the GP or out of hours (OOH) services should symptoms persist or worsen. This is sensible medical practice.

We have been notified of instances whereby the patient has attended the GP surgery the following day to claim they have been advised to have a Troponin blood test. We have agreed across Sheffield that Troponin testing in this scenario is inappropriate. The patient may well have been advised to attend A&E to have the blood test which may affect the way they approach their GP, but the GP should not perform the test in the community setting.

Troponins are an acute phase investigation for suspected myocardial damage and should only be performed in the Emergency Department. Results in General Practice may not be received for several hours or even the next day. If results are equivocal further Troponin tests and ECGs are recommended within 1-3 hours and opportunities for intervention would be lost.

If patients attend surgery following such a scenario then it is good medical practice to re-assess the patient and recommend onward referral to the Emergency Department (or SDEC if appropriate), if concerns remain.