

# PATIENT INFORMATION PACKAGE

## Thrombosis Unit

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### **Where:**

**Please note different locations for weekends and statutory holidays.**

### **For weekend and statutory holiday appointments:**

Please report directly to the **Module H, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor General Campus main building** at 10:00 hrs. This is not an appointment time. Please expect a delay. Patients will be assessed on a priority basis based on the clinical urgency. Patients are to report here on weekends & holidays and advised not to wait at home for a phone call.

Please note that the clinic is closed December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **For weekday appointments:**

You will be called by 08:30 am tomorrow morning. If you have not heard by 08:30, please call: 613-798-5555 x 78060. You will be notified if your appointment is at a satellite clinic.

Should the line be busy leave your full name and the number where you can be reached that morning. You will be given all appointment details when you are contacted.

### **What is a deep vein thrombosis (DVT)?**

Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) is the term used to describe blood clots that form mostly in the deep veins of the legs.

#### ***Signs and symptoms of a DVT:***

The leg can:

swell, become painful, turn red and warm

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### **What is a doppler ultrasound?**

A simple test performed to determine if a blood clot is present in your leg veins. The test is painless and involves moving a device up and down your legs, which can detect a blood clot by sending out sound waves.

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### **What is a pulmonary embolism (PE)?**

Blood clots are most dangerous when they break into tiny fragments and travel through the heart and into the lungs (a pulmonary embolism). A pulmonary embolism can be fatal.

#### ***Signs and symptoms of a PE:***

Shortness of breath, chest pain, dizziness, coughing up blood, fainting

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### **What is a V/Q scan?**

A test performed to determine if a blood clot is present in your lungs. This test is performed in two stages.

Firstly, you will inhale a radioactive aerosol, secondly, a radioactive substance will be injected into your arm veins. A special camera will then show how the radioactivity distributes itself in your lungs to determine if a blood clot is present.

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### **What is a CT scan?**

A test performed to determine if a blood clot is present in your lungs. Contrast dye will be injected into one of your arm veins and images of your lungs will be taken to determine if there is a blood clot present. Notify the doctor if you have an allergy to contrast dye or have kidney failure.

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**DVT and PE can be life threatening conditions. If you develop significantly worsening symptoms while at home awaiting to be seen in the thrombosis unit the next day, IT IS IMPORTANT that you return to the Emergency for reassessment by the Emergency doctor WITHOUT DELAY.**