The Cardiology Service at the QEII
The Cardiology Service at the QEII

We understand that this is a very stressful time for you and your family and friends. We hope the information in this pamphlet will make you feel more comfortable.

Please feel free to ask questions.

One of our goals is to give cardiac patients timely access to care. The Cardiology Service serves people from Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick.

Patients enter the Cardiology Service in 2 ways: they may be admitted directly to one of the cardiology units or they may be admitted through a system called the 24-hour Transfer Service. The 24-hour Transfer Service aims to shorten the time patients wait in their home hospital to have procedures done in the Cardiac Catheterization Lab.

Your doctor has decided that you need the care of a cardiologist (heart doctor), and tests or procedures offered through the Cardiology Service at the QEII. If you are waiting in your local hospital, the QEII will call when a bed is ready and you will be transferred.
Nursing units

The cardiac nursing units are on Level 6 of the Halifax Infirmary. There are signs to help you find the correct unit. There are information booths at the Robie and Summer Street entrances that can give you more information.

You may be a patient in one of the following 3 units:

Coronary Care Unit 6.4 (CCU)
Phone: 902-473-8981 or 902-473-3422
This is a critical care unit for patients who need close observation and monitoring. Each patient is connected to a heart monitor so that a nurse can check their heart rhythm at all times. Other equipment may also be used. Please ask the nurse any questions you have about any of the equipment.

Cardiology Intermediate Care Unit 6.1 (IMCU)
Phone: 902-473-6515 or 902-473-6520
Patients who need closer observation and monitoring are cared for in this unit. Men and women may share a room. Each patient is connected to a heart monitor so that a nurse can check their heart rhythm at all times. Each nurse cares for 3-4 patients. Doctors are on the
unit from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. This is the best time for you and your family to talk about your care with a doctor. After 5 p.m., there is one doctor on this unit.

Cardiology Inpatient Unit 6.2
Phone: 902-473-6560 or 902-473-6561
This is a 37-bed cardiology unit. Men and women may share a room. You may be attached to a heart monitor called telemetry. Your nurse will tell you if you are allowed to walk around the unit. Do not leave the unit if you are wearing a portable telemetry monitor.

If you are having chest discomfort or any pain similar to your heart pain, please let staff know right away.
What can you expect of the Cardiology Service?

The healthcare team
Members of a healthcare team will care for you. Members of the team are:

You and your family
Some of the best medicine is the care, love, and support of family. Please let us know if you have any concerns.

Nursing staff
Our highly skilled and caring Registered Nurses (RNs) will care for you.

Nurse practitioners
These RNs have further education and specialize in the care of cardiac patients. They work with cardiologists and other team members to give nursing and medical care. They are involved with admissions, discharge planning (planning for when you leave the hospital), and management of your medical treatment.

Clinical nurse specialist
The clinical nurse specialist can help you and your family sort through the hospital maze. If you would like to speak with the clinical nurse specialist, ask your nurse or the charge nurse.
**Staff cardiologist**
A cardiologist will direct your medical care. Cardiologists rotate to other areas in the cardiology department, so you may be under the care of more than one cardiologist during your stay. You may have a different cardiologist on the weekend than during the week.

**Resident doctors and clinical associates**
These are medical doctors doing specialty training in cardiology. These doctors will help the cardiologist with your care. They are available 24 hours a day.

**Patient representative**
There is a patient representative available to patients and families who have concerns about any aspect of hospital care. The patient representative can be reached by phone at 902-473-2133, or toll-free at 1-855-799-0990.

**Other healthcare team members**
Other team members are: clergy, dietitians, pharmacists, physiotherapists, respiratory therapists, research nurses, social workers, technicians, patient aides, care team assistants, unit clerks, unit aides, and others as needed.
Personal belongings and valuables
We encourage you to leave all valuables at home. The hospital is not responsible for the loss of any item. If needed, valuables may be locked in the safe in the hospital business office.

Other information

Halifax Infirmary
The Halifax Infirmary site at the QEII has 2 main entrances: one on Summer Street and the other on Robie Street.

Parking
There are parking meters by the Summer Street entrance. Hourly and daily parking is available in the parking lot at the Robie Street entrance.

Visiting
Visiting is an important part of care. You and your family, together with your nurse, will decide about visitors. We ask that you have no more than 2 visitors at a time.

There is a quiet period from 2:30-3:30 p.m. every afternoon.

Visitors may be asked to wait in the family waiting room during certain procedures. Please ask staff on the unit where the waiting room and public washrooms are.
Phone
• Patients on 6.1 IMCU and 6.2 can receive incoming phone calls. The patient switchboard phone number is 902-473-1510. Please call this number and ask to be connected to the patient. Since patients may be moved to different rooms, it is best to ask to be connected using the patient’s name rather than their room number.
• The bedside phone can be connected to make outgoing calls for a daily charge. Local calls can be made from the phone in the family waiting room.
• There are payphones beside the elevators on the 6th floor.

TV service
6.2 is the only inpatient unit in cardiology that has bedside TVs.
If you have insurance coverage for a semi-private or private room and you are given such a room, the cost of TV service is included in your rate. In all other cases, there is a charge for TV service in a patient’s room.
Services
• The Summer Savory Cafeteria is on Level 2.
• A Tim Hortons coffee shop is at the Robie Street entrance on Level 4.
• The Gift Shop is at the Robie Street entrance on Level 4.
• Shoppers Drug Mart is at the Robie Street entrance on Level 4.
• Bank machines are at the Summer Street and Robie Street entrances.

Smoking
The QEII is a smoke-free environment. Smoking is against the medical advice of your doctor.

Scent-free
NSHA is a scent-free environment. Please do not use perfume, aftershave, or scented lotions in the hospital.

Accommodations
We do not have rooms where family members can sleep at the hospital. On the next page there is a list of some places to stay near the Halifax Infirmary. The unit clerk on the nursing unit can give you more information. Family members must make their own arrangements. When you
call to book a room, please tell the reservation clerk that you are a family member of a patient at the QEII.

## Accommodations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Tel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Point Pleasant Lodge</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pointpleasantslodge.com">www.pointpleasantslodge.com</a></td>
<td>1121 South Park Street</td>
<td>902-421-1599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantica Hotel</td>
<td><a href="http://www.atlanticahotelhalifax.com">www.atlanticahotelhalifax.com</a></td>
<td>1980 Robie Street</td>
<td>902-423-1161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halifax Haven Guest Home</td>
<td><a href="http://www.acon-atlantic.ca/service/ns/halifax-haven-guest-home">www.acon-atlantic.ca/service/ns/halifax-haven-guest-home</a></td>
<td>5897 Inglis Street</td>
<td>902-421-1650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lord Nelson Hotel</td>
<td><a href="http://lordnelsonhotel.ca">http://lordnelsonhotel.ca</a></td>
<td>1515 South Park Street</td>
<td>902-423-6331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Westin</td>
<td><a href="http://www.thewestinnnovascotian.com">www.thewestinnnovascotian.com</a></td>
<td>1181 Hollis Street</td>
<td>902-496-8585</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sharing information with family
Following the Privacy of Health Information Act (PHIA), we are only able to give information to your next of kin or substitute decision maker, unless you tell us otherwise. In other words, by law we can only give information about your care to a family member or the person you have chosen to receive this information. Frequent phone calls can take us away from your family member. We ask that you choose one family member to receive information and then share it with others. This will help everyone in your family to receive the same information.

We hope this information is helpful. Please use the space below to write down any questions you have.

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

10