

Pan-London Acute Aortic Dissection Stanford Type A Referral, Transfer, Escalation Pathway

Step 1: Confirm Diagnosis

Acute Aortic Dissection (Stanford Type A) involving ascending aorta +/- aortic root +/- aortic arch +/- descending thoracic aorta +/- abdominal aorta confirmed via imaging (e.g., CT Angiogram).

Immediate stabilisation of the patient as per local protocols.

Step 2: Refer to Cardiac Surgical Team at Primary Aortic Centre

The **primary specialty** (e.g., cardiology, acute medicine) or **Emergency Department (ED)** diagnosing the patient is responsible for initiating the referral and transfer to the **Primary Aortic Centre** (details provided in Step 4).

If the **Primary Aortic Centre** has no capacity, escalate the case as per **Step 3**.

Step 3: Escalation Responsibility

Primary Aortic Centre receiving the referral must take full responsibility for facilitating escalations to alternative aortic centres within or outside the London region.

Once the **Primary Aortic Centre** has identified an appropriate **receiving centre**, it must coordinate with the ED or primary specialty team to arrange patient transfer, as outlined in **Step 5**.

The **Emergency Department** or primary specialty is **not responsible** for handling escalation or coordination between aortic centres.

Step 4: London Regional Transfer Pathways

South London (Primary Aortic Centres)

Hospitals

- **King's College Hospital** (Contact No.: 0203 299 7239, 0203 299 9000 (Bleep CT reg))
- **St. Thomas' Hospital** (Contact No.: 07729 102021)
- **St. George's Hospital** (Contact No.: 0208 672 1255 (Bleep CT reg))

If South London has no capacity

- Escalate to:
- North-West London
 - North-East London

Still no capacity:

Escalate to the **aortic centres of neighbouring regions**:

- Royal Sussex Hospital, Brighton [Contact No.: 12736 96955 (Bleep CT reg)]
- Southampton General Hospital, Southampton [Contact No.: 0238 077 7222 (Bleep CT reg 9211)]
- John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford [Contact No.: 01865 761166 (Bleep CT reg 1963)]

North-West London (Primary Aortic Centres)

Hospitals

- **Royal Brompton Hospital**
- **Harefield Hospital**
- **Hammersmith Hospital**

Contact No: 0207 376 3848

If North-West London has no capacity

- Escalate to:
1. North-East London
 2. South London

Still no capacity:

Escalate to the **aortic centres of neighbouring regions**:

- John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford [Contact No.: 01865 761166 (Bleep CT reg 1963)]
- Southampton General Hospital, Southampton [Contact No.: 0238 077 7222 (Bleep CT reg 9211)]
- Royal Sussex Hospital, Brighton [Contact No.: 12736 96955 (Bleep CT reg)]

North-Central & North-East London (Primary Aortic Centre)

Hospitals

- **St. Bartholomew's Hospital**
Contact No.: 07900 051070

If North-Central & North-East London has no capacity

- Escalate to:
1. North-West London
 2. South London

Still no capacity:

Escalate to the **aortic centres of neighbouring regions**:

- Basildon University Hospital, Basildon [Contact No.: 01268 524900 (Bleep CT SpR 9012)]
- Royal Papworth Hospital, Cambridge [Contact No. 01223 638000 (Bleep CT reg)]

Step 5: Route of Transfer

Primary Transfer via ACCESS (Acute Critical Care Emergency Support Service):
Contact No.: 0330 330 4357 (Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

Backup Transfer via London Ambulance Service (Critical Care Transfer):
Contact No.: 999 (Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week).