

the doctor who conducted your baby's fetal heart scan or another consultant who specialises in treating babies and children born with heart problems.

### Leaving hospital

When your baby leaves hospital we will work with your local doctor, health visitor, hospital and other health services to ensure that you and your family have all the support you need.

### Further help and advice

We know that this can be a worrying time for you and want to give you as much information and support as you need, both before your baby is born and afterwards. We are always happy to answer any questions about your scan, any possible heart condition your baby may have, or your choices regarding treatment. We can also refer you to any other appropriate service that may be helpful. If you would like a second opinion we can arrange this.

If you need further information you can contact our fetal cardiac nurse specialist by phoning the Royal Brompton Hospital switchboard on 0207 352 8121, leaving your name and contact phone number for pager BROM 381. We will call you back as soon as possible. Alternatively, you can leave a message on our office answerphone: 0207 349 7727 or email [ccln@rbh.nthames.nhs.uk](mailto:ccln@rbh.nthames.nhs.uk).

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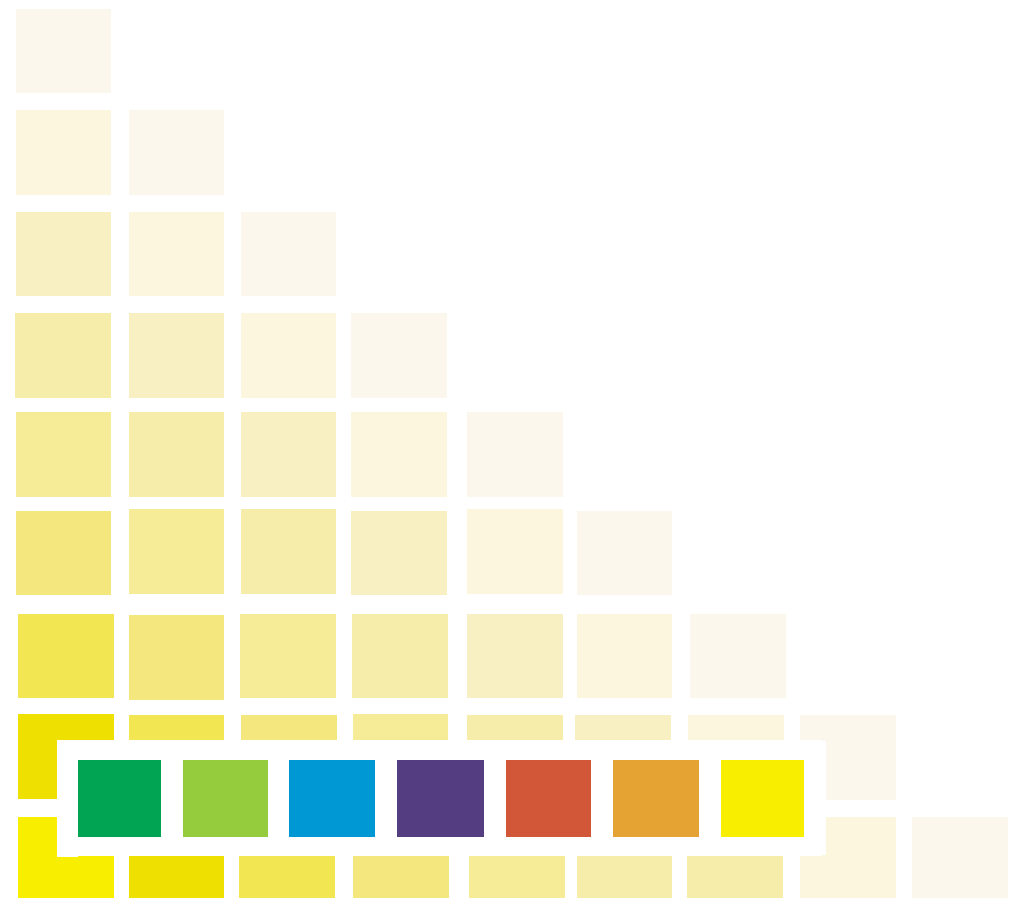
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## Royal Brompton Fetal Cardiology

# Fetal Cardiology Service



## Who are we?

We are a team of experienced doctors and nurses who specialise in the care of babies with heart conditions, both before and after they are born. We are based at the Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals and hold clinics in specialist centres and other hospitals in London and the South East.

## Our team

### Doctors:

Dr Julene Carvalho  
Dr Piers Daubeney  
Dr Rodney Franklin  
Dr Helena Gardiner  
Dr Alison Groves

### Nurse Specialists:

Mary McLaughlin  
Margaret Jiggins  
Vidia Johansen  
Catherine Renwick

## What do we do?

We give support, information and advice on treatment options to any family whose baby may have a heart condition.

## The heart scan

A fetal echo is a scan of your baby's heart that we carry out when your baby is still in the womb. It is similar to the routine scans you have while you are pregnant, although in this scan we concentrate just on your baby's heart. We use ultrasound to take pictures of the heart, to see how it is developing and to look at how the blood flows around it. In many cases this confirms that the heart has developed normally. Most heart problems can usually be detected but some abnormalities and a small number of conditions can only be detected after birth.

## Getting the results

We will explain the results of the scan to you as soon as it is over. If we find a problem we will explain all the options available to you and whether your baby is likely to need medical and/or surgical treatment.

## During your pregnancy

If your baby has a heart problem we will monitor his or her heart throughout your pregnancy. You may be asked to come back for several more scans before your baby is born. One baby out of every ten who is found to have a heart condition will have problems with other organs, or with the genes that are responsible for the development of these organs (a chromosomal defect). If we think this may be the case with your baby we will offer you advice and counselling, and, if appropriate, refer you to a specialist obstetrician for further tests.

Our fetal cardiologists and nurses will liaise with your local obstetrician, GP and midwife and you will receive copies of any reports sent to them. We will discuss with you the best place for your baby to be born. This could be your local hospital or it may be a maternity centre closer to the Royal Brompton Hospital so that your baby can be transferred to us soon after birth, if necessary. Before your baby is born we can arrange for you to visit the ward and intensive care unit where your baby will be staying. If you wish, we can also arrange for you to meet one of our heart surgeons or another paediatric / adult congenital cardiologist. Brothers and sisters are welcome to visit. We can arrange for them to meet the play therapists who can help them to understand what will happen when their brother or sister is born, and why you may have to spend time in hospital with your baby.

## When your baby is born

Not all babies will require treatment immediately after birth. Some babies may need to come to the Royal Brompton Hospital for an assessment prior to discharge from the maternity unit, and may have regular outpatient appointments with us to be monitored. However, if your baby does require treatment immediately after birth you can come and stay with him/her when you are discharged from the maternity centre. We will make follow up arrangements for you to be visited by a midwife. Your baby will be under the care of a cardiologist. This may be