

MonashHeart, Southern Health is committed to providing outstanding cardiac services for cardiac patients of all ages

- ♥ Every 10 minutes, an Australian dies from cardiovascular disease making it the biggest killer of all Australians
- ♥ MonashHeart treats more acute heart attack patients than anywhere else in Victoria
- ♥ Each year MonashHeart treats over 5700 patients with acute heart problems, the most in Victoria
- ♥ MonashHeart operates one of the busiest cardiac CT scanners in the world
- ♥ MonashHeart is the only cardiac service in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania to treat heart patients of all ages; from pre birth to our senior citizens
- ♥ MonashHeart is an internationally and nationally recognised leader in cardiovascular research



Fundraising Manager  
Southern Health  
Locked Bag 29  
Clayton South 3169

## When does my doctor get the results?

Your GP will receive a letter from the cardiologist that assessed you within 24 hours of your appointment. This letter will include details of the clinical assessment, your Framingham risk score of heart disease, 12-lead ECG report, results of any tests performed at the time of RACPC visit, and a provisional diagnosis of the cause of chest pain with follow-up and management recommendations.



An additional copy of this letter may also be sent to any other doctors who may be involved in your care at your request.

On the day of the clinic, the cardiologist will be more than happy to discuss all aspects of the clinic visit and subsequent care with you.

Some useful websites

**MonashHeart**  
[www.monashheart.org.au](http://www.monashheart.org.au)

**Patient Information**  
[www.heartfoundation.org.au](http://www.heartfoundation.org.au)



Please use this space to write down any questions you may have:

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Rapid Assessment Chest Pain Clinic (RACPC)



Patient Information Sheet

## What is the Rapid Assessment Chest Pain Clinic?



The Rapid Assessment Chest Pain Clinic (RACPC) is a new innovation in care designed to provide you with rapid access to a leading cardiologist in order to assess your chest pain in a timely and efficient way. If you have chest pains or symptoms that are likely or possibly due to a heart problem, you will be seen in the RACPC within three to five days of your initial contact.

This client/patient focussed streamlined clinic provides unparalleled access to specialist consultation, investigation, diagnosis and treatment to improve the whole experience and allay frustration and stress associated with the usual delays.



## Why do I need review at RACPC?

Your general practitioner (GP) or emergency department doctor has referred you to the RACPC as it believed that your symptoms, such as chest pain and/or shortness of breath, maybe due to a heart condition such as coronary artery disease.

### These symptoms include:

- ♥ New onset chest pain, tightness or discomfort
- ♥ Increasing frequency chest pain, tightness or discomfort
- ♥ Change in pattern of chest pain, tightness or discomfort
- ♥ Chest pain, tightness or discomfort with associated shortness of breath.



## What can I expect?

### Evaluation in the MonashHeart RACPC will involve:

- ♥ Initial contact with a cardiac technologist who will record your height, weight, heart rate and blood pressure as well as perform a 12-lead electrocardiogram (ECG)
- ♥ Clinical assessment by a consultant cardiologist who will take your medical history, perform a physical examination, determine your risk of having heart disease and make recommendations for any cardiac tests or procedures that may be required. These tests and procedures will be performed at the next available appointment time. If the cardiologist believes that tests need to be performed urgently, they will be performed on the same day.

Your review at the RACPC should take 30 minutes, but if any further tests or procedures are recommended on the same day, this will require extra time to undergo these. For example, an exercise stress test will take at least 30 minutes, and a cardiac CT scan will take approximately two hours.

There is no cost associated with the RACPC, it is fully bulk billed.



## How do I prepare?

There is no special preparation for the RACPC. However, we do suggest that you do not have tea or coffee two hours before arriving at the clinic, just in case further tests which require fasting of tea and coffee are recommended at the time of your clinic visit.

## What do I bring?

Checklist of things to bring to the clinic:

- your Medicare card
- list of current medications or the medications themselves
- GP details (name, address, telephone number)
- relevant blood test results or scans (if available)
- private health insurance details (if applicable)
- your pension or veteran affairs card (if applicable)

## What are the risks?

There are no risks associated with attendance at the RACPC. However, there may be very small risks associated with some cardiac tests and procedures that may be recommended for you. These risks will be discussed with you at the time of the subsequent test and or procedure.



I support MonashHeart, Southern Health in providing leading care to cardiac patients of all ages.

(Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible ABN 82 142 080 338)

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Thank you for supporting MonashHeart