

**Patient Initiated Follow-Up (PIFU)**

**Clinical Protocol for Heart Failure**

**1) Introduction:**

* This protocol is a general description of patients with the above condition who are agreed by the clinicians to be suitable for PIFU.
* Any decision to place a patient on a patient initiated follow-up (PIFU) pathway is ultimately at the discretion of the clinician.
* PIFU is not to be used where patients would otherwise previously have been discharged

**2) Patient cohort/selection criteria:**

*There should be no specific criteria in relation to the underlying cardiac condition. Each clinician should have the freedom to decide which criteria should be met (symptoms or signs) for PIFU to be activated.*

* Heart Failure patients with stable symptomatology when no new medications or interventions are considered.

**3) Exclusion criteria:**

**4) Timeframe for patient to stay on PIFU pathway:**

**5) Key symptoms that should trigger a follow-up appointment request:**

* Weight gain (i.e. 2Kg over 3 days) and/or worsening breathlessness on exertion, new or worsening peripheral oedema.

**6a) Ideal waiting time between initiating an appointment and seeing a clinician:**

**6b) Maximum waiting time:**

**7) Clinicians who can allocate to PIFU:**

**8) Note to be added to the bottom of the clinic letter to the GP:**

This patient has been allocated a patient initiated follow up (PIFU) and can request a further follow up appointment by contacting XXX on **01722 XXX** valid for the next***specify XX*** **months**.

Date:

Review date: