

Heart Attack (ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction – (STEMI))

Patient Information

www.interiorhealth.ca

Your family member/friend is experiencing a heart attack, which is a medical emergency that needs very fast treatment. We will now explain what may be happening to your family member/friend who we will now refer to as the patient.

We understand that this is a very stressful time, but it is important to work as fast as possible to give the best possible treatment.

A heart attack is caused by a blockage in one of the arteries around the heart. These arteries supply the heart muscle with the oxygen rich blood that it needs to work properly. When the heart arteries are not able to deliver enough blood it causes pain/nausea/vomiting/shortness of breath and other symptoms the patient may have experienced before coming to hospital.

Your family member or friend has had an Electrocardiogram (ECG) which is a picture of the electrical activity of their heart. This test shows that the patient needs to be transferred to Kelowna General Hospital (KGH) for immediate care.

While at KGH they will have an angiogram, which is a procedure where a Cardiologist inserts a narrow tube from an artery in the groin or wrist, up to the heart arteries and dye is injected into the while x-ray pictures are taken. This test shows if and where there are blockages or narrowing of the arteries.

If appropriate, the patient may have an angioplasty, which is a procedure used to open

an artery that has become narrowed or blocked by deposits in the artery wall. A small metal stent may be permanently placed in the artery to help keep the artery open and relieve symptoms.

While this procedure is underway, we advise you to either go home or stay close to your local hospital until we know the outcome of the procedure at KGH. When the procedure is complete the patient’s emergency contact will be provided an update of the treatment plan. Things can always change so we ask that you are flexible while we navigate this time sensitive medical emergency.

For additional information please read or watch the following:

Heart Catheterization
(Cardiac Angiogram / Angioplasty)
[What You Need to Know a Patient and Family Guide](#)

Patient educational video:
Before an Angiogram
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtHdzio54-E>
or
<http://bit.ly/Angiograms>



Before your appointment please watch the informed consent DVD
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7GOnUcHOFg>
or
bit.ly/3tSjtHl



<p>Call 8-1-1 Healthlink BC www.healthlinkbc.ca</p>	Nurse	24 hours a day	Daily	<p>Call 8-1-1 to speak with a nurse, ask a dietitian about nutrition, or a pharmacist about your medication.</p>
	Dietitian	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Mon – Fri	
	Pharmacist	5 p.m. – 9 a.m.	Daily	
	Hearing Impaired	Call 7-1-1		