

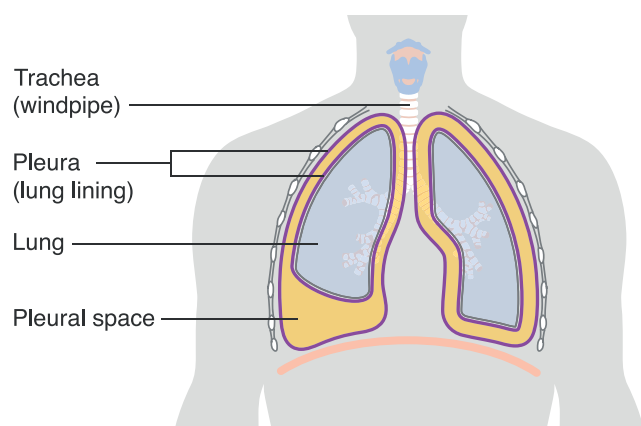
Pleural clinic

Respiratory Medicine Patient information

You are receiving this leaflet as you have been booked into the pleural clinic at Royal Bournemouth Hospital.

What is the pleural clinic?

Pleural clinic is where we see patients with pleural disease. The lungs are covered by two thin layers called the pleura. These layers make a small space between them, called the pleural space.



Sometimes air or fluid can build up in this space. This can cause problems and may need a test or treatment to help you feel better.

We can use an ultrasound machine (like the one used during pregnancy) to look at this space and see what's going on.

Where is the pleural clinic?

We are located in the Coast building (east wing) on Level 1, outside the respiratory ward.

Please arrive 10 minutes before your appointment and speak to the ward clerk when you get here.

Because space is limited, please bring only one other person with you.

Ahead of your appointment

There are a few things we need to do before your visit:

- 1 Blood tests** - Before any procedure, we need to check that your blood is clotting properly. You may need to have a blood test before your appointment.

If you take blood-thinning medicines, the test will be done on the same day, after you've stopped taking them. We will book an appointment for you to have this blood test at the phlebotomy clinic in the West Wing of the Royal Bournemouth Hospital.

2 Medications - Please tell us if you take blood-thinning medicines like Clopidogrel, Rivaroxaban, Apixaban, or Warfarin. These will need to be stopped before your procedure. Your doctor will tell you when to stop and start them. The table on the next page provides a rough idea of how long to hold your medication. Unless told otherwise, you can restart these medicines the day after your procedure. Keep taking all your other medicines as normal.

Medication	Instructions
Warfarin	Withhold for 5 days aim INR <1.5
Apixaban/Rivaroxban/Edoxaban	Hold for 48 hours
Dabigatran	Hold for 5 days
Enoxaparin	Hold for 24 hours
Clopidogrel/Ticagrelor/ Prasugrel/Dipyridamole	Hold for 7 days
Aspirin	Do not stop

At your appointment

You will see a doctor who will talk to you about your symptoms. They might also do an ultrasound scan of your chest.

The doctor will explain if you need any pleural procedures and will answer your questions before asking for your consent (permission) to go ahead.

If you need a test called a thoracoscopy, it will be booked for another day in a different part of the hospital.

After your appointment, you might need a chest x-ray. The doctor will let you know before you leave. You don't need to wait for the result unless the doctor tells you to.

The whole appointment may take 1 to 3 hours.

If you have any further questions regarding your appointment in the pleural clinic, please contact the Respiratory Department on 0300 019 4859.

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