



## Exeter South West Peninsula Interstitial Lung Disease Service

You have been given this leaflet because your local respiratory doctor, ward doctor or GP has referred you to the Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) Service based at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. There are many types of interstitial lung disease and you are referred to us to help with an accurate diagnosis that can lead to treatment. This leaflet is to help explain what will happen next. You should be offered patient charity information leaflets to accompany this information. The charity information can also be found at [www.actionpf.org](http://www.actionpf.org) on this website you will also find details of social media and face to face support groups. Suitable information can also be found at [www.pulmonaryfibrosistrust.org](http://www.pulmonaryfibrosistrust.org) and [www.asthmaandlung.org.uk](http://www.asthmaandlung.org.uk).

The Interstitial Lung Disease Service at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital is an NHS England regional commissioned service covering Devon, Cornwall, Dorset and Somerset.

Your referral will be discussed in an ILD multidisciplinary team (ILD MDT) meeting which includes an expert ILD physician, ILD radiologist and ILD Nurse Specialist and when required a pathologist and/or rheumatologist. You may be required to undertake some additional tests such as CT Scan, Lung Function Test, Blood test to assist the diagnosis.

After this meeting, and if appropriate, you will be offered an outpatient clinic appointment. It may be that we are able to offer advice to your local doctor without you needing an appointment with our ILD team in Exeter. You and your local doctor will be kept fully informed.

If we offer you an appointment with the Exeter ILD Team you will still also be under the care of your local doctor. This is important as your local doctor will be your point of contact until we see you for your first appointment in Exeter and they will continue to follow you up so that you have care closer to your home.

We use a shared care approach, supporting local hospitals in caring for their patients and reducing unnecessary visits to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

We realise that it can be a long way to travel to Exeter for an appointment but patients tell us they benefit from the experience of attending their first appointment with us face to face. We encourage patients attending their first clinic appointment with us to bring a family member or friend as it can be a busy day and you will be given lots of information. We hope you will meet several members of the ILD team and we shall also provide you with contact details. In addition to support and management of your symptoms and condition, where appropriate, we offer patients access to clinical research, clinical trials, pulmonary rehabilitation, oxygen assessment and lung transplant.

Following this first appointment face to face the majority of your follow up appointments with the ILD service in Exeter will be by telephone.

Contact details for your local team:

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This information can be offered in other formats on request, including a language other than English and Braille.  
**RD&E (Eastern Services) main switchboard: 01392 411611      NDDH (Northern Services) main switchboard: 01271 322577**  
**For Royal Devon services log on to: <https://royaldevon.nhs.uk>**

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