

Rapid Access Neurology Assessment Service (RANA)

Aim of the service

- To improve our ability as a system partner to meet patient healthcare needs and demands, by optimising the performance of our acute neurology model to improve quality and patient experience and system working.

Service detail

RANA open hours: Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm

Location: The Walton Centre

- Patients who meet the defined clinical criteria (Appendix 1) for RANA support, to be referred by ED clinician to the RANA gatekeeper (Registrar or Consultant) via dedicated phone line – **07977 022703**
- RANA gatekeeper will discuss with the ED clinician and make decision to accept to RANA or reject based on RANA clinical gatekeeper Criteria

Patient accepted to RANA

- RANA gatekeeper will provide appointment slot time for patient review (next working day) to ED clinician. ED clinician to inform patient of the RANA appointment, time and date, providing clear instructions on RANA location.
- ED clinician to provide patient with completed RANA attendance booking slip (Appendix 2)
- Patients presenting to RANA will be seen by senior registrar or Consultant
- Patients that are accepted by RANA gatekeeper that present to RANA with condition, signs and or symptoms that differ from what was discussed between ED Medic and RANA gatekeeper, will be assessed by RANA Registrar or Consultant to determine if they remain appropriate for RANA.
- Patient who are inappropriate will be transferred back to original receiving site
- If a patient does not attend a scheduled RANA appointment or cancels appointment for a RANA, the appointment will not be rescheduled. Consultant will write to GP and the referring clinician that patient has cancelled or DNAd.
- Patients who are seen in RANA clinic and require admission / further follow up – will be managed under the care of the RANA (on call) consultant

Appendix 1 – Referral criteria

RANA Criteria

(Rapid Access Neurological Assessment clinic)

Referral Criteria

Patients attending A&E or AMU with new acute / sub-acute neurological symptoms who are 'stable and ambulant': ie equivalent to existing ambulatory care services and able to attend a Walton Centre outpatient assessment appointment by the next working day.

Patients likely to be unsuitable for RANA

- **Suspected covid** – even if stable and ambulant, patient should not be referred until PCR test returns negative
- **High suspicion for serious neurological condition eg** bacterial meningitis, encephalitis, confusion/ delirium, SAH, cerebral haemorrhage, rapidly progressive neuromuscular weakness. Such patients should be admitted and investigated. Advice on management can be obtained from neurology/ neurosurgery on call team or the visiting neurology team but if unsure please call and discuss with RANA SpR
- **Features of sepsis, systemic inflammatory response syndrome**, cardio-respiratory instability or low GCS
- **Suspected cauda equina** or spinal cord compression syndrome or acute neurosurgical issues like subdural, possible blocked shunt– refer neurosurgery
- **History or imaging suggestive of stroke** – refer LUHFT stroke team
- **Exacerbation of a chronic headache** – please follow [secondary care headache pathway](#) . On discharge, patients' GP to follow primary care headache pathway. Patients should not be discharged on opiates / codeine nor should they be referred routinely to headache clinic.
- **First seizure** - please follow [first fit pathway](#) - if there are any worrying features can be discussed for suitability for RANA
- **New papilloedema or worsening of papilloedema** in existing IIH –confirm papilloedema as best as possible and record visual acuity and fields and follow papilloedema pathway <https://pn.bmj.com/content/practneurol/18/6/485/F1.large.jpg> -but can be discussed to consider suitability for RANA

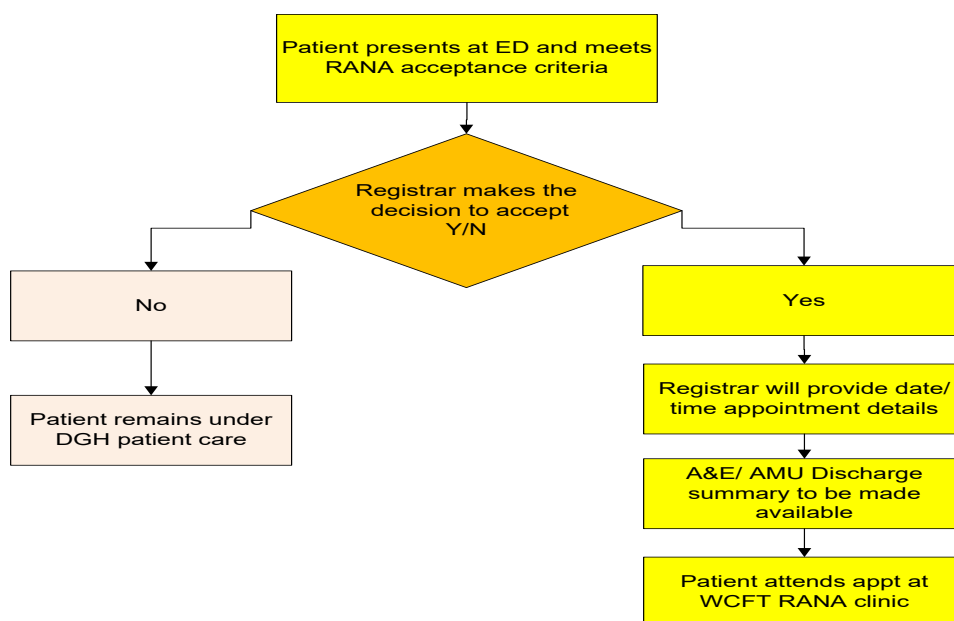
Structure of RANA clinic

- 6 clinic slots / day Monday- Friday
- On call Neurology consultant and RANA SpR manage the clinic between hours of 9.00am – 5.00pm

Referral process

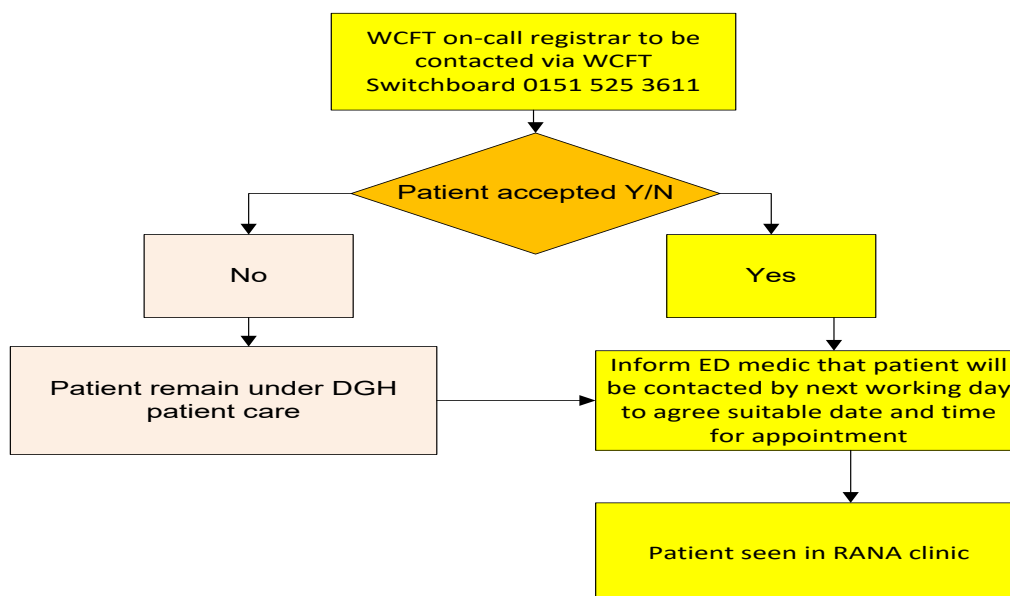
Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm

- RANA neurology registrar to be contacted on dedicated mobile number -07977022703 to discuss suitability for RANA
- Once accepted, the registrar will give a time and date
- Referring clinician to document on the RANA booking confirmation document the details of the appointment and provide to patient (appointments are expected to be available by next working day – please note these cannot be cancelled / rearranged)
- Referring clinician to send ED discharge summary and investigation results with the patient



Outside of hours (5.00pm – 9.00am)

WCFT on-call registrar to be contacted via WCFT Switchboard 0151 525 3611 to discuss suitability for RANA – If accepted, the registrar will inform ED clinician that patient will be contacted by next working day to agree suitable date and time for appointment. Appointments are expected to be offered by the next working day.



Appendix 2 – Appointment booking slip

The Walton Centre

RANA clinic Appointment booking confirmation

Name:		DOB:		NHS No:	
Appointment Date:				Appointment Time:	
Discussed at Walton with:					
Location: Main Outpatients; RANA clinic :The Walton centre L9 7LJ					
Parking in the adjacent paid multi-storey car park or in any of the paid visitor car parking areas					
Please report 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment and register with the reception team Depending on your assessment, you may be able to leave soon after the appointment or you may have to stay longer to undergo further investigations. Please be prepared to be in department for half a day					
<i>This urgent RANA appointment is being made so that you can be assessed by the neurology team quickly. This appointment cannot be rearranged. Walton centre contact number (during working hours only) 0151 556 3213</i>					