



Summary of NICE Guidelines

Title	Thoracoscopic exclusion of the left atrial appendage in atrial fibrillation (with or without other cardiac surgery) for the prevention of thromboembolism
NICE Reference	IPG400 (interventional procedures guidance)
Date of Review:	11/08/2011
Date of Publication	22/06/2011
Summary of Guidance (Max 250 words)	Thoracoscopic exclusion of the left atrial appendage (LAA) is a surgical procedure used to close the mouth of the LAA, a muscular pouch connected to the left atrium. Clots can form in the LAA during atrial fibrillation (AF). These clots can cause thromboembolisms. This procedure is new and aims to prevent thromboembolism in patients with AF. The safety, efficacy and patients most likely to benefit are not yet known. It can be carried out by cardiac surgeons in combination with surgical ablation or on its own in the context of research. Arrangements must be in place for patient consent, clinical governance and audit/review of outcomes. Patients with AF at high risk of thromboembolic stroke who are unable to tolerate anticoagulation therapy may be offered this procedure.
Impact on Lab (See below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Important
Lab professionals to be made aware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laboratory Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chemical Pathologist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clinical Scientist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biomedical Scientist
Please detail the impact of this guideline (Max 150 words)	No impact

Impact on Lab

- None:** This NICE guideline has no impact on the provision of laboratory services
- Moderate:** This NICE guideline has information that is of relevance to our pathology service and may require review of our current service provision.
- Important:** This NICE guideline is of direct relevance to our pathology service and will have a direct impact on one or more of the services that we currently offer.