Palpitations

Awareness of Heart Beat Prompting Seeking Medical Advice

- **Collapse or Severe Symptoms**
  - 999 Call
  - Immediate Measurement of HR, BP
  - Patient Appearance (Pallor, Sweating)
  - Associated Symptoms (Chest Pain/SOB)
  - 12 Lead ECG

- **Self Transport To A&E**
  - Significant Abnormality
  - Only Abnormality
    - Isolated Ectopic Beats
    - 12 Lead ECG

- **Call To GP On Call Service**
  - Appropriate Intervention

- **Call To NHS Direct**
  - Separate Sheet (p2 below)

- **Appt With GP**
  - Separate Sheet (p3)

- **Only Abnormality Isolated Ectopic Beats**
  - Advise to see GP if event recurs / 999 if recurrence with severe symptoms

- **See Intervention Algorithms**

**Assess for HIGH RISK FACTORS:**
1) Presence of pre-existing cardiac disease (Congenital H.D., Previous M.I. / CABG / Other major cardiac intervention)
2) History or signs of heart failure
3) History of syncope / pre-syncope
4) Family history of sudden cardiac death in under 40s
5) Exertional cardiac symptoms
6) Suspected drug related phenomenon
7) Resting ECG Abnormality - Abnormalities that are **not** considered high risk if no other risk factors are present:
   a) Right or left bundle branch block or
   b) 1st AV block

**Developed and approved by the Dept of Health Expert Reference Group on Cardiac Arrhythmias & Sudden Cardiac Death (NSF Chapter 8)**
http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/10/60/40/04106040.pdf