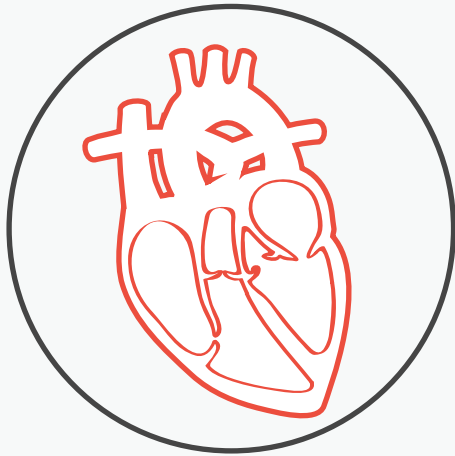


Heart Valves Are For Life

Understanding a Potential Heart Valve Problem

Your heart has four valves that need to open and close properly. When one or more valves are not working properly, medical care and follow-up visits are important.



You may want to use this diagram as a discussion aid to understand the problem and possible treatments.

1 What's the problem?



Stenosis: Are any of my heart valves too narrow to allow enough blood to flow?



Regurgitation: Are any of my valves leaking significantly?

2 What does it mean?



How serious is the problem?



What happens if I decide to ignore it?

3 What should I do?



What symptoms or circumstances would warrant a call to your office?



Are there any medications I should take for symptoms?



Should I be aware of any related emergency conditions that are more likely because of my valve problems?

Learn more at www.heart.org/heartvalves