

PATIENT INFORMATION: WHY YOUR GP HAS REFERRED YOU TO HOSPITAL, WHAT IT MEANS AND WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

You will be offered an appointment to see a specialist or to have a test within 2 weeks

Why have I been referred urgently to hospital?

You've been referred urgently because your GP feels your symptoms need further investigation so has referred you to a specialist. There are many common conditions that these symptoms can be linked to, including the possibility of cancer.

Does this mean I have cancer?

Having an urgent referral does not necessarily mean you have cancer and most people who have an urgent referral don't have cancer. However, you need to see a specialist or have some investigations quickly to rule out the possibility of cancer. In the event that cancer is diagnosed, then ensuring the diagnosis is made early means treatment is likely to be more effective and this is why it is important that you are seen within 2 weeks of the referral being made.

Once you have been given your appointment it is very important that you attend.

What will happen next?

The hospital will send you an appointment either by letter within a few days or by telephone to arrange an appointment with a consultant. Alternatively in some cases you will have a telephone consultation so the hospital can establish the appropriate route of referral or book you for tests which will help both the specialist and your GP to understand what is causing your symptoms.

You are welcome to bring a friend or family member with you, as it may be helpful if you have concerns about understanding what the medical team will discuss with you.

What do I need to do?

- Make sure your GP has your correct address and telephone number including a mobile number if you have one.
- Take a friend or family member with you to the appointment; it may be helpful if you have concerns about understanding what the medical team will discuss with you.
- ***If you have not heard anything within a week of seeing your GP please let the GP practice know you haven't received an appointment yet.***
- Ensure you are available within the next two weeks for an appointment. If you are unable to attend an appointment within the next two weeks, please tell your GP. ***Please take the earliest appointment offered to you and keep it.***
- If you require an interpreter, or you have any needs that you feel you may benefit from additional support, please let the hospital know in advance of your appointment.
- Once you have agreed your urgent appointment, it is important that you attend so that your care is not delayed.
- If you do not attend your hospital appointment more than twice, you will be referred back to your GP.

We appreciate this is a worrying time while you wait but please be assured that your GP is trying to find out what is wrong and get treatment for you as quickly as possible.