

# GP Newsletter

January 2024

**Sherwood Forest Hospital NHS  
Foundation Trust**

**Outpatient & Diagnostic Services**



## Content

### **P 3-4 Radiology Update**

- **Waiting and reporting times (Average)**
- **Useful information**

### **P 5-8 Outpatient Services update**

- **Waiting time for first clinic appointment (Average)**
- **Waiting time for diagnostic appointments (Average)**
- **Trust updates**
- **Useful information**

## GP Radiology Newsletter

Please see below the current waiting times for the Radiology service across all modalities.

Reporting turnaround times are also detailed below.

The number of DNAs for our Ultrasound appointments remains high.

**Please could you remind patients being referred for Ultrasound appointments of the importance of attending, or of contacting us if the appointment is no longer required.**

Please could you inform your patients of the following –

- Most of our MSK and Head MRI activity is performed at Newark Hospital.
- We are unable to offer a ‘walk in’ service for any of our investigations. Please advise patients to book an appointment (contact numbers overleaf).

			Dec 23		
Average Turnaround for Appointments	Plain film X-ray	Plain film CXR	CT	MRI	NOUS
Waiting time for 2WW		3 –10 days	5-10 days	7-10 days	5-7 days
Waiting time for Urgent	3 weeks		2-3 weeks	1-2 weeks	5-7 days
Waiting time for Routine	5 weeks		5-6 weeks	6 weeks	3 weeks

Number of DNAs During Dec 23	105	182	318

Average Turnaround for Reporting	Plain film X-Ray	Plain film CXR	CT	MRI	NOUS
Reporting time for 2ww	7 days	7 days		1 week	<b>Most reports issued on the same day as scan</b>
Reporting time for Urgent				1 - 2 weeks	
Reporting Time for routine	2-3 weeks	3 weeks		2-3 weeks	

## **Important Information to assist you and your patients**

Please ask patients to inform us of any changes to mobile numbers as we use a text appointment reminder service.

Appropriate telephone numbers for your own enquiries or for patient booking are detailed below –

**MRI 01623 622515 ext. 6190**

**Plain film 01623 672238 (Direct line)**

(For all other appointments we will contact the patient).

**Report Enquiries ext. 4066**

**(Please do not give this number to patients to chase reports)**

**All Ultrasound, MRI and CT requests will be vetted and protocolled before appointments can be booked. Once this has been done, we will contact your patients to arrange an appointment.**

### **DNA's**

If patients DNA their appointment the referral will be returned to the GP. If the request is a 2ww and the patient DNA's we will offer one further appointment.

### **Changing of Appointments**

Please be aware that patients can only change their appointment date once. Thereafter the patient will be discharged back to their GP in accordance with our 'Access Policy.'

### **Bloods**

when referring patients on an 'Urgent Suspected Cancer' pathway please ensure that they have had a recent blood test. Failure to do this causes delays to diagnostic procedures if patients are requiring intravenous contrast media.

## GP Outpatient Newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of the Sherwood Forest Hospitals (SFH) Trust Outpatients Newsletter.

### Current Waiting Times for First Clinic Appointment

The waiting times below are the average waiting times from referral to first appointment based on data for the month of December 2023.

The waiting time for sub-specialties or specialist services may vary. Waiting times for 'Urgent Suspected Cancers' are also excluded from the below. This is based on actual data for December 2023.

Specialty	Wait in weeks
General Surgery	8.06
Urology	10.53
Breast	1.40
Vascular	16.36
Fracture	0.68
Orthopaedics - Adult	12.46
Paediatric Trauma & Orthopaedics	17.33
ENT	18.35
Ophthalmology	8.75
Oral Surgery	16.90
Plastic Surgery	1.36
Thoracic Surgery	4.50
Paediatric Surgery	24.38
Pain Management	12.00
Paediatric Epilepsy	12.33
Paediatric Diabetes	11.50
Community Paediatrics	6.20
Gastroenterology	28.98
Endocrinology	42.70
Haematology	14.93
Hepatology	33.67
Diabetic Medicine	14.08
Paediatric Cardiology	43.57
Cardiology	19.76
Cardiology Diagnostics	28.66
Stroke Medicine	17.01
TIA	1.23

Dermatology	6.01
Geriatric Medicine	7.47
Respiratory	17.01
Respiratory Physiology	9.61
Rheumatology	10.28
Obstetrics	6.58
Gynaecology	9.18
Midwifery Services	4.50
Speech and Language Therapy	10.35
Dietetics	21.32
Audiology	2.83
Paediatric Audiology	4.41
Physiotherapy Gynaecology	13.51
Physiotherapy Integrated Surgery	0.75
Physiotherapy Neurology	6.50
Physiotherapy Obstetrics	5.02
Physiotherapy Oncology	7.44
Physiotherapy Orthopaedics	2.32
Physiotherapy Respiratory Medicine	10.94
Physiotherapy Rheumatology	6.28
Orthotics	4.99

## Current Performance for Diagnostic Tests

Position at the end of December 2023

Diagnostic Test	Total Waiting	Number Waiting <13 weeks	Number Waiting > 13 Weeks	DM01 performance %
DEXA Scan	436	436	0	100.00%
Audiology - Audiology Assessments	386	384	2	99.48%
Cardiology - echocardiography	4274	2123	2151	49.67%
Respiratory physiology - sleep studies	348	347	1	99.71%
Urodynamics - pressures & flows	106	90	16	84.91%
Colonoscopy	267	265	2	99.25%
Flexi sigmoidoscopy	41	41	0	100.00%
Cystoscopy	241	212	29	87.97%
Gastroscopy	328	315	13	96.04%

As always waits are subject to variation due to factors such as sub-modality of test type e.g., CT Cardiac versus CT general, site (Newark or Kings Mill) and patient need.

Things you could do to help -

- Ensure patients have up to date bloods, as required, and/or that the patient is aware that these will need to be arranged as a priority in order for the test to go ahead when contacted by SFH.

Patients will always be offered the earliest available appointment at either Newark or Kings Mill and should be informed that we are one organisation. Therefore, following your referral, they will be offered the earliest available slot which could be at either Kings Mill or Newark.

## **Phlebotomy Appointments**

We are running Saturday clinics at Mansfield Community Hospital from now until the end of March.

This is a walk-in service and is available between 8.00am and 12.00pm in the Tony Hughes Centre.

We have had a few instances recently where we have been unable to take bloods due to information not being available on ICE.

Please can we kindly remind you to ensure this is done so that we do not have to turn patients away.

## **Pathology**

We are currently running a user survey to glean feedback regarding our Pathology service from our users.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could take the time to complete this using the following link – your feedback is invaluable to us.

<https://forms.office.com/e/81KUNiYzke>



## **Important Information to assist you and your patients**

Please ask patients to inform us of any changes to demographic details – particularly mobile numbers, as we use a text appointment reminder service. Patients will receive a reminder message 10 days, 5, days and 3 days prior to their appointment date.

**For any patient queries relating to outpatient appointments, please contact:**

**Call Centre (for clinic appointments at any SFH site)**

**01623 672383**

**For GP queries, please contact:**

**Central Admin Team**

**01623 676165 or 01623 676166**

### **DNAs**

If patients DNA their appointment, the referral will be reviewed by a clinician and may be returned to the GP. If the request is a 2WW and the patient does not attend, we will offer one further appointment.

### **Changing Appointments**

Please be aware that patients can only change their appointment date once. Thereafter the patient will be discharged back to their GP in accordance with our Access Policy (unless under extenuating circumstances).