

Why have I been referred urgently to the hospital?

(The urgent 2 week wait referral system)

Why have I been referred to hospital?

Your General Practitioner (GP) or Dentist has asked for you to have an urgent hospital appointment within two weeks. The “two week” appointment system was introduced so that a specialist would see any patient with symptoms that might indicate cancer as quickly as possible.

Does this mean I have cancer?

No you may not have cancer. The majority of patients referred under the “two week” appointment system do not have cancer, but a simple or benign condition. GPs are keen to catch patients early with cancer diagnosis as this increases the prospect of a cure or enhances your health status.

So why has my GP referred me?

GPs diagnose and treat many illnesses themselves. However, on occasion they need to arrange for you to see a specialist at the hospital. This could be for a number of reasons, such as:

- Your symptoms need further investigation
- The treatment already prescribed has not been effective
- Investigations your GP arranged have shown some abnormal results
- To exclude serious disease

Will I need any tests?

You may require specialised tests; these may take place either before or during your first appointment at the hospital. This will help the specialist understand the cause of your symptoms.

What do I need to do now?

- Make sure that your GP has your correct address and telephone number, including mobile number if possible.
- The hospital will contact you by telephone to confirm your appointment so the correct contact telephone number is very important.
- Contact your GP surgery if you have not been called by the hospital within one week of the appointment with your GP.
- Once you have agreed an appointment, ensure that you follow instructions and attend on the date agreed.
- At your first appointment, based on the information from your GP and your consultation with the hospital doctor, they will give you more information about what will happen next.
- You can bring someone with you to this appointment as you may find this helpful.
- You might want to write down some questions to ask at the appointment and also write down the answers you are given.

Please use this space to write down the date, time, location and site of your appointment:

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Cancelling Your Appointment

If you find you are on holiday or unable to attend your appointment for other reasons please telephone as soon as possible to cancel and arrange a new date and time.

If your appointment is at a Nottingham University Hospital appointments please call 0115 924 99 24 followed by ext: 64267, 63062, 67410 or 65015.

If your appointment is at The Nottingham Treatment Centre please call 0115 970 5800.

**Please make every effort to keep your appointment, this ensures
that the wait for patients is kept to an absolute minimum**

Sign Language services for the deaf

To book a sign language interpreter please contact the Nottinghamshire Sign Language Interpreting Service on 0115 978 6984 or nslis@nottsdeaf.org.uk or for appointments at The Nottingham Treatment Centre please call 0115 970 5800

Confirming your Language Interpreter

If you require an interpreter your GP would have made a request on your referral, however you must call the hospital to confirm that an interpreter has been booked for you.

If your appointment is at a Nottingham University Hospital appointments please call 0115 924 99 24 followed by ext: 64267, 63062, 67410 or 65015.

If your appointment is at The Nottingham Treatment Centre please call 0115 970 5800.

Hospital transport

If you require hospital transport please ask the appointments officer to put you through to the Transport booking office. You will be asked a series of questions to assess your eligibility. If you are not eligible for transport you will be able to claim back your travel costs (not taxi fares) if you receive income support, income based job seekers allowance or working families' tax credit. You will need to bring proof of benefit and ask the clinic staff for details of how to claim.

To contact the transport office directly, telephone either Nottingham University Hospital on 0345 266 9662 or The Nottingham Treatment Centre on 0115 970 5800

**It is important to remember that an urgent 2 week wait referral does
not necessarily mean that you have cancer**

You can get more information about the "two week" appointment system and other information from the following websites:

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

www.nice.org.uk