

## **Important Information about your urgent suspected cancer referral. This appointment is to confirm, or rule out, a cancer diagnosis.**

### **Why have I been referred urgently to hospital?**

You have been referred to see a hospital doctor (specialist) or to have tests because your primary care clinician (doctor (GP), nurse, dentist, optician, or pharmacist) feels your symptoms need further investigation. This is to investigate your symptoms, find out what is wrong and if it could be cancer. You can expect to be seen quickly.

**Whilst this does include the possibility of cancer, most people referred in this way do not have cancer.**

The signs and symptoms you have may be caused by a number of common illnesses, including suspected cancer. This is why this referral is urgent, and any appointments and tests will need to be completed within four weeks to give you an answer.

### **Does this mean I have cancer?**

**More than 9 out of 10 people who are referred in this way are found to not have cancer.** However, for the small number of people who are, then the earlier this is found and treated the better the results can be.

**Do not delay - please give it priority and attend the first appointment offered.**

### **What will happen next?**

Your referral will be sent to the hospital who will make the appointment for you. The hospital will contact you to arrange this. The hospital may also send you additional information relating to the appointment. This will include information about any medical tests you are likely to have on the day you attend.

### **What should I do now?**

**First:** You should ensure that all your contact details, including mobile phone number and email address, are correct with your GP or dental practice. This appointment is important so you should do all you can to ensure you are available and can take the first appointment offered.

**Then:** You will get a letter or telephone call about your appointment.

If, within a week, you still have not heard from the hospital please check with the person who referred you. They will be able to direct you to the right department to contact, or you could call the hospital appointment booking number overleaf:

<b>Hospital appointment numbers</b>	
-------------------------------------	--

Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Addenbrooke's)	01223 806000
North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust (Hinchingsbrooke hospital)	01480 847444
North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust (Peterborough & Stamford hospitals)	01733 673555
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS Trust	01553 613626
West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust	01284 713000

## What will happen at the hospital?

When you have your hospital appointment you will usually see a specialist and have some medical tests. You will be told in advance if you need to have any tests during your appointment, so please ensure you follow any instructions you are given.

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

**If you are asked to attend further appointments, please give these priority and attend the appointment offered.**

## Any questions?

If you have any concerns or questions regarding your referral to hospital, you can call the number given above, or speak to the person who referred you, your GP, nurse, dentist, optician or pharmacist.

You can find additional information about urgent referrals on the Cancer Research UK website at:

[Your urgent cancer referral explained | Cancer Research UK](#) or use this QR code



You can find support and information at your local Macmillan Cancer Information Support Hub, visit their website, and enter your location to access the nearest hub to you:

[Local Dashboard Choose Location - Macmillan Cancer - Macmillan Cancer Support](#)

## Change to waiting times standards.

The way the NHS measures how long it will take from your referral to when you have your first appointment has recently changed. We used to measure the time it took from your referral to your first appointment, but now we are measuring the time between when you are referred to when you get the outcomes of any tests.

You can find more information on cancer standards and waiting times by clicking the link below:

[NHS England » Changes to cancer waiting times standards from 1 October 2023](#)