

PATIENT INFORMATION FOR URGENT REFERRALS

This information sheet explains why your GP has referred you to hospital, what it means and what you need to do.

Why have I been referred urgently to hospital?

You've been referred via this system because your GP feels that your symptoms need further investigation and has referred you to a specialist. Because this referral is urgent, it means that you will be offered an appointment at the hospital within two weeks.

Does this mean that I have cancer?

There is a small possibility that your symptoms could be linked to cancer but there are many common conditions that have similar symptoms. You have been referred because the GP feels that you would benefit from seeing a specialist and having investigations performed quickly. This enables our hospital colleagues to make an accurate diagnosis and plan effective treatment. In the event that cancer was to be diagnosed, an early diagnosis means that treatment is more likely to be effective and increases the possibility of cure. This is why it is important that you are seen within two weeks of the referral being made.

What do I need to do?

- Make sure your GP has your correct address and telephone number including mobile number if you have one.
- 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.
- If you require a translator, please let the hospital know in advance of your appointment.
- Once you have agreed your urgent appointment, it is important that you attend it, so that your care is not delayed.
- If you do not attend your hospital appointment you will be referred back to your GP. This is so someone else can have the appointment so it is really important that you communicate with the hospital any requirements to re-book.

What will happen next?

Your GP has arranged your appointment using an e-referral system and will provide you with the date, time and location of your appointment during your consultation. It is very important that you attend this appointment. Your GP will also provide you with hospital contact numbers in the event that you need to change your appointment.

What will happen at the hospital?

When you have your hospital appointment you will usually see a specialist who will give you some more information about that will happen next. You may also require some tests which will help both the specialist and your GP understand what is causing your symptoms. You will be told in advance if you need to have any tests during your appointment, so please ensure you follow any instructions given to you in advance. This will occur within 2 weeks of seeing the Specialist – if this does not happen please contact the Secretary to let us know. 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.

Any questions?

If you have any concerns or questions regarding your referral to hospital, please call the GP surgery to speak to the person who referred you.