



Urgent 2 week wait referral system

Understanding why you have been referred to hospital

Your GP has asked for you to have an urgent hospital appointment or test within two weeks because you have displayed symptoms which may be caused by cancer.

Whilst it is unlikely that you have cancer, it is very important that you are seen by a specialist as soon as possible.

The two week appointment system was introduced across the country so that patients with symptoms that could be caused by cancer are seen by a specialist quickly.



The majority of patients referred under this system turn out NOT to be diagnosed with cancer, but early diagnosis can increase the success rate of many cancer treatments.

It is essential to ensure that your GP has your correct day time telephone and mobile phone numbers, as well as your correct postal address.

Your appointment or test will be within the next two weeks. You should inform your GP now if you are unable to attend an appointment within the next two weeks (for example, if you are about to go on holiday).

It is essential that you attend the earliest appointment offered to you. The hospital has a responsibility to ensure you are offered an appointment within two weeks; it is your responsibility to make every effort to attend.

If you have any queries about this referral, particularly if you feel anxious or concerned, you should contact your GP in the first instance.

What happens now?

1

Your GP will send your referral to Lancashire Teaching Hospitals. If your GP gives you a blood test form as part of your referral, you will need to arrange to have a blood test through your GP surgery before you attend your first hospital appointment.

2

The Outpatient Booking Centre will contact you by telephone within 72 working hours (Monday to Friday). They will make two attempts to contact you by telephone. If this is unsuccessful, an appointment will be made and details posted to your address.

3

If you have not had telephone contact from the hospital within 10 working days (Monday to Friday) of seeing your GP, ring the Outpatient Booking Centre on 01772 523772. If the hospital has not received your referral for any reason, you will be advised to contact your GP immediately. If you require an interpreter at your appointment, please inform the booking team using the telephone number above.

4

You are welcome to bring someone with you to your hospital appointment to provide support. You may also wish to bring a list of questions to ask the specialists you see at your appointment.

It is very important that you keep all appointments that are made for you.



For a copy of this document in an alternative format, including other languages, large print or audio, please call us on **01772 214 601** or **01772 214 602**.

This leaflet has been produced by NHS Chorley and South Ribble Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Greater Preston Clinical Commissioning Group and Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

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