

Patient Information

Referral for the serious but non-specific (vague symptoms) pathway

Why have I been referred to hospital to be seen within 2 weeks?

It is important to find out why you have your current symptoms. You will be seen by a hospital specialist within the next 14 days, who will consider the best way to manage your care.

Does this mean I have cancer?

The 'two week' urgent referral system aims to diagnose and treat serious illnesses, including cancer, quickly. Further specialist advice and possible investigations are now needed.

What will happen next?

You will be contacted (probably by telephone) to arrange an appointment. This may be for a consultation or you may be directed towards having further investigation before being seen in clinic – this will help the hospital doctor to have more information when you are seen. These tests may include CT or ultrasound scans and or endoscopy.

Why is it important for me to attend the appointment within 2 weeks?

Your Primary Care Clinician (GP or Nurse Practitioner) is concerned there may be a medical problem that needs further investigation. A hospital specialist needs to see you to discuss further investigation and possible treatment and care options with you.

The hospital specialist that you see will be able to answer any questions that you have about the tests or treatment that you may need.

If you are unable to attend an appointment you must let the hospital know, so that alternative arrangements can be made.

If you choose to delay your appointment to go on holiday, this may affect the terms of your holiday insurance cover.

Can I bring someone with me to the appointment?

Please note you should if possible, bring a friend or relative to your clinic appointments, we would encourage you to do this as sometimes a lot of information can be given to you at this time.

The team is multidisciplinary, this means it is comprised of Doctors and a Nurse whose main aim is to diagnose and treat patients with a possibility of a cancer. Most patients referred on the serious, non-specific symptoms pathway do not have cancer; however our aim is to exclude a cancer diagnosis or to diagnose cancer quickly. The team meets on a weekly basis to discuss your recent test results and plan your treatment and care.

What should I do if I haven't heard anything about my referral?

If you have not heard about your referral within 7 days please contact your GP surgery.

Please make sure that your surgery has your correct contact details, including home and mobile telephone numbers.