

# Urgent Hospital Appointments (within 2 weeks)

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

The 'two week' urgent referral system aims to diagnose and treat serious illnesses, including cancer, quickly. It is important to find out why you have your current symptoms. Further specialist advice and possible investigations are now needed. You will receive an appointment within two weeks, either to see a specialist, or sometimes to have other tests or scans first.

## Does this mean I have cancer?

Your doctor has been concerned enough to refer you urgently; however most patients referred under this system are not found to have cancer and are reassured after initial tests.

## What will happen next?

You will be contacted (probably by telephone) to arrange an appointment or for tests.

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

Treatments for most conditions will be more successful if the diagnosis is made at an early stage.

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

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 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?

Yes, you are welcome to bring someone with you for support. **We would encourage you to do this.**

## 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.**