

WHAT IS AN URGENT SUSPECTED CANCER REFERRAL?

Your GP or nurse has arranged for you to have tests or see a hospital specialist. This is to investigate your symptoms, find out what is wrong and if it could be cancer.

Most people referred in this way will not have cancer, but if you do, early diagnosis and treatment are important. You may feel worried when you have an urgent referral to see a specialist. However, more than 9 out of every 10 people (more than 95%) referred this way will NOT be diagnosed with cancer. If you have any concerns, please contact surgery.

How will I get to know about my appointment and when?

- You may get your appointment date and time by post or over the phone. If you have a phone call, the number might not display. Please do answer.
- If you don't get your **appointment details within two weeks**, please contact the GP surgery. Sometimes services may contact you within a few days, don't be alarmed!
- If you are contacted by phone, please let the person know if you need any assistance. You can ask if it's ok for someone to come with you to appointments.
- If the appointment comes by post, there may be a number to contact if any queries.

What type of appointment will I have?

- You may be offered a clinic or telephone appointment, or you may be asked to go for a test e.g. blood test, scan or camera.
- You should receive information about any tests and any preparations you need to make. The person testing you will not usually be able to tell you your results.

How will I get any results?

- If you have tests, **make sure you check how you will get your results** and when this is likely to be.
- You will usually see or speak to one of the specialist hospital team for any results and discuss whether any tests or treatment is needed.
- Do ask any questions you may have.

The NHS aim for cancer to be ruled out or diagnosed within 28 days of referral, often sooner. It is very important that you go to all your appointments and tests. If you can't attend, please contact the hospital as soon as possible to rearrange.

IS THERE IS ANYTHING THAT WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO KEEP YOUR APPOINTMENT OR ATTEND TESTS? DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS? PLEASE LET YOUR SURGERY OR THE HOSPITAL KNOW SO THAT WE CAN HELP!

Handy hints

- If your symptoms change, get worse or if new symptoms develop contact your GP surgery.
- Check your GP surgery has your current contact details including a mobile number if you have one.
- If you have had some tests at the hospital and have been waiting longer than expected for your results, contact your specialist's nurse or secretary.

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- If you don't have hospital team's contact details, ask your GP surgery for advice.