

If you need to contact someone prior to receiving your appointment letter, please contact your GP.

Otherwise, the hospital contact details will be contained in the letter sent to you, inviting you to your appointment.



**You will need to make yourself available to attend clinic appointments and tests within the next two weeks**



**Why do I have an urgent referral to the hospital?**



**It is important to remember an urgent 2 week wait referral does not mean you have cancer**

**The Urgent 2 Week Wait Referral System**

## The Urgent 2 Week Wait Referral System

### Why have I been referred to hospital?

Your General Practitioner (GP) or Dentist has asked for you to have an urgent hospital appointment within two weeks.

The "two week" appointment system is there so that any patient with symptoms that might indicate cancer can be seen by a specialist as quickly as possible.

### Does this mean I have cancer?

**No, it doesn't** - most patients (around 90%) referred under the "two week" appointment system do not have cancer, but a simple or benign condition. Your referral may be necessary for a number of reasons such as:

- Your symptoms need further investigation.
- The treatment already prescribed has not been effective.
- Investigations your GP arranged have shown some abnormal results.
- To exclude serious disease.

### Will I need any tests?

You may require specialised tests; these may take place either before, during or after your first appointment at the hospital. You may also require **more than one test** before seeing a specialist. This will help the specialist understand the cause of your symptoms.

### What do I need to do now?

- Make sure your GP has your correct address and telephone number, including your mobile number if possible.
- If your details are incorrect, we may be unable to contact you to arrange an appointment.
- Your GP or Practice will either have made you an appointment during your consultation, or the hospital will contact you by telephone and/or letter to arrange an appointment. Please be aware that hospitals often withhold their telephone number and take this into consideration when deciding whether to answer a call from a withheld number.
- Contact your GP surgery if you have not been contacted by the hospital **within 4 working days** of the appointment with your GP.
- Once you have agreed an appointment, ensure that you follow instructions and attend on the agreed date.

- If you can't attend for any reason at all, please contact your GP / hospital as soon as possible to arrange a new appointment.
- At your first appointment, based on the information from your GP and your consultation with the hospital doctor, you will be given more information about what will happen next.
- You can bring someone with you to this appointment as you may find this helpful.