

Suspected Cancer Referral

What is an urgent referral?

Your GP has arranged for you to see a hospital doctor (specialist) urgently. This is to find out what is wrong and if it could be cancer. There are many common health problems that your symptoms could be linked to. This includes cancer. However, most people who have an urgent referral do not have cancer.

If it is cancer, and we find it at an early stage, it means treatment is more likely to be successful. This is why it is important that we see you urgently.

This referral is urgent. We will offer you a telephone or face-to-face appointment with the hospital in the next 14 days.

What if I am unable to attend an appointment?

This is an important referral. You may need further tests over the next four weeks. Please try your best to be available during this time.

If you are not able to attend, let your GP know straight away or the hospital when they contact you.

What does your GP need to know?

- Make sure your GP has your correct address and the best phone number for you. The hospital may contact you by telephone. At times, the number may appear as 'No Number'.
- If you need an interpreter, please let your GP know. They will include this on your referral form. You can also arrange an interpreter by calling the Urgent Appointments Team on the number below. Friends and family members cannot interpret for you.
- If you need hospital transport, please let your GP know. They will include this on your referral form. When you know where and when your appointment is, you can call the Transport Team on the number below, who will be able to help you.
- If you need a specific gender doctor, let the hospital know when they first contact you. If this is not possible, we will make sure a chaperone of that gender is available.
- If you need additional support to attend your appointment, let the hospital know when they first contact you.
- If you have not received an appointment within 14 days, contact your GP practice or the Urgent Appointments Team using the contact details below.

What will happen next?

The hospital will contact you to arrange an appointment. The appointment may not be at your nearest hospital.

Your first appointment may be face to face or a telephone call with a nurse specialist. They will talk to you about your symptoms.

Before your appointment, it may help to write things down. This could include your symptoms and any questions you may have.

Please note: You must tell the member of staff if you are going to record the call. It would also help us to know if a friend or family member is with you.

Preparing for your appointment

You will get a letter that tells you:

- The date and time of your appointment
- Where to go
- Who you are seeing
- Anything you need to do to prepare

Your appointment may take a few hours depending on which tests you need. You may need to think about arranging transport, time off work, or childcare for your appointment.

We will contact you with the results of the tests as soon as possible.

Depending on your results you may need another appointment to see a specialist. If we do not need to see you again, we will send you a letter with the results. If you do not have cancer but your symptoms carry on, go back to your GP.

Any questions?

If you have any questions about your referral, call your GP practice. If your symptoms get worse before your appointment contact your GP.

Useful Contacts

Urgent Appointments Team - Telephone: 01743 261663

Transport for Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin - Telephone: 0300 777 0077

Transport for Wales Residents - Telephone: 0300123 2303

Patient Advice Liaison Service (PALS)

The PALS offer confidential advice, support and information on matters relating to your care and treatment at any of our hospital.

Telephone: 01743 261691 or Email: sath.pals@nhs.net

Useful links for further information

Macmillan Cancer Support - <https://www.macmillan.org.uk/>

Cancer Research UK - <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org>