

“Urgent Two Week wait referral”

Why have I been referred urgently to the hospital?

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Your General Practitioner (GP) or Dentist has arranged an urgent appointment for you to be seen with **two weeks**. This referral system was introduced so that a specialist would see any patient with symptoms that **might** indicate cancer as quickly as possible.

Does this mean I have cancer?

No it doesn't. Most patients do not turn out to have cancer but a simple benign condition.

So why has my GP referred me?

Most complaints and illnesses are successfully treated by GPs. However, on some occasions they need to arrange for you to see a specialist hospital doctor. This could be 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

What symptoms might need an urgent referral?

Symptoms such as:

- A lump that does not go away
- A change in the size, shape or colour of a mole
- Abnormal bleeding, e.g. rectal bleeding
- A change in bowel or bladder habits including increased frequency.
- Persistent tiredness and/or unexplained weight loss

There are national referral guidelines for your GP to use to make a decision about whether it is appropriate to refer you for an appointment within two weeks (www.nice.org.uk)

Will I need any tests?

You may require specialised tests; these may take place either before, during or following your first appointment at the hospital. This will help the specialist to understand the cause of your symptoms.

What do I need to do now?

- Make sure that your GP has your correct address and telephone number, including mobile number if possible
- The hospital will try and contact you by telephone to arrange an appointment so the correct contact telephone number is very important. If they are not able to make telephone contact, an appointment letter will be sent in the post.
- Contact your GP surgery if you have not been contacted by the hospital within one week of the appointment with your GP
- **Let the hospital know immediately if you are unable to attend your appointment so that the appointment can be offered to someone else.** It is important that you arrange an alternative date and time when cancelling this appointment.
- **Important:** Please tell your GP at the time if you will be away on holiday or unable to attend the out patient appointment within the next two weeks for any other reason.

Contact Details
Two-Week Wait Office
Tel: 01727 897199
Fax: 01727 897492

It is important to note that even though this is an urgent referral for the patient to be seen within 14 days by a specialist, it does not necessarily mean that a person has cancer

More information about the Two-Week Wait referral system and other related information can be viewed on the following websites: www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk and www.nice.org.uk