

**Information for patients who
have been referred to hospital
on a cancer pathway**

Why have I been referred to hospital on a cancer pathway?

Your local General Practitioner (GP) has asked that you have an urgent hospital appointment **WITHIN TWO WEEKS** so that we can diagnose the reasons for your current problem.

It is very important that you are available for this appointment and any future appointments that may be required as we need to diagnose and treat you as quickly as possible.

Does this mean I have cancer?

No, it doesn't. Most patients who are given an appointment on a cancer pathway do not have cancer, but a simple or benign (non-cancer) condition.

Why does my GP think I need to be seen urgently?

GPs detect and treat many illnesses themselves but sometimes they need you to see a specialist hospital doctor, so that your illness can be investigated further. It is important that any disease is identified quickly, so that we can start your treatment quickly to improve your health.

The tests arranged by your GP have shown some results that we would like to look at in more detail to make sure that you receive the best treatment.

It is **important** that you are available for these to be carried out as we need to diagnose and treat as quickly as possible.

What is a cancer pathway?

A cancer pathway is a nationally agreed process for diagnosing and treating patients who have cancer within agreed timescales.

Most importantly, the pathway allows patients to receive treatment within 62 days of being referred to a specialist hospital team. If you are not available for tests and appointments this could mean we cannot treat you within the 62 days that is recommended.

Will I need any tests?

You may need further tests which may happen before, after or during your first appointment at the hospital. The results of the tests will help the hospital doctor understand the cause of your symptoms.

It is important that you are available for these tests so that we can carry them out as quickly as possible to assess you and decide on the best treatment. Some of these tests may be carried out at other hospitals, eg. Leeds Teaching Hospitals.

What do I need to do now?

- Make sure your GP has **YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER(S)**.
- Staff at the hospital will ring or write to arrange an appointment.
- Please **TELL THE HOSPITAL STRAIGHTAWAY IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO KEEP THIS APPOINTMENT** and arrange another date.
- You may bring a friend or relative with you to this appointment to support you throughout your visit if you would like to.
- **Please tell your GP if you are not available to attend appointments for the next month.**

Contact details

If you have not heard from the hospital within two working days after seeing your GP please telephone the Fast Track Office on:

01924 212507 or 01924 213290

Please remember that even though you are being referred urgently to a hospital specialist, this does not necessarily mean you have cancer, but it is very important that you attend the appointments.

If you would like more information about the two week wait appointment system or other health related information, log on to:

- NHS England (publications): www.england.nhs.uk or
- NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk

This leaflet has been produced by The Cancer Management Team.

You can find out more about our wide range of health services and related issues on www.midyorks.nhs.uk



Wakefield

Clinical Commissioning Group



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We are committed to providing high quality care. If you have a suggestion, comment, complaint or appreciation about the care you have received, or if you need this leaflet in another format please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service on: 01924 542972 or email: pals@midyorks.nhs.uk

To contact any of our hospitals call: **0844 811 8110**
To book or change an appointment call: 0844 822 0022

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