

This information sheet explains why your GP has referred you urgently to hospital and what you need to do.

Why have I been referred urgently to hospital?



Your doctor thinks that you should be seen at hospital as soon as possible. This is because you need treatment or tests urgently.

Most people who are given an urgent referral to hospital do not have cancer.



It is important though that you are seen at hospital as soon as possible. This is so they can find out what is wrong and the best way to treat you.



Medicines and operations can often work better if you get seen at the hospital as soon as you can.



This referral is important! You will be given a telephone or face to face appointment at hospital in the next 14 days.

You can bring a family member, support worker or friend with you to the appointment.



You might need more tests during the next 4 weeks, so it is important that you are available to have these done. Tell your doctor if you can't make them.



Make sure that your doctor has your address and telephone number.

The hospital might call you on your mobile phone, so make sure your doctor has that number too.



If you have any access needs, for example you need easy read information or an interpreter, let the hospital know before your appointment.

You can also ask to see a female doctor if you prefer.



If it has been more than two weeks since you were referred, and you still don't have a hospital appointment then you should call your doctor.

What will happen next?



Your doctor or hospital will book you an appointment.



Your first appointment will be with a nurse specialist or a specialist. They will ask you some questions so they can learn more about your illness or condition.



The appointment might be by phone or a video call.

Please note: You must tell the nurse or doctor if you want to record the call or have a friend, family member or support on the call with you.



The hospital will send you instructions or information about appointments or any tests you are going to have.



You might have to prepare for the appointment or tests.

This could be by wearing the right clothes, or bringing the right things with you, so it is important that you read the instructions.



You can ask someone you trust to help you read the instructions if you need to.

This could be a family member or a support worker.



If you can't make the appointment for any reason please let the hospital know as soon as possible.

What will happen at the hospital?



At your hospital appointment you will usually see a specialist or have some tests.

Your appointment might take a few hours, so you should be prepared to wait at the hospital for a while.



You might be told the results of your tests on the day of your appointment.

If not you will be told your results within 28 days.



You can bring a family member, support worker or friend with you to the appointment.

Any questions?



If you have any questions about your hospital visit, speak to your doctor.



If your symptoms get worse before your appointment, then you should speak to your doctor.

You can get more information if you follow these links:

<https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/>

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/cancer-information-and-support>