

# Urgent two week wait - Possible cancer referral

## Why have I been referred urgently to the hospital?

Your doctor has arranged for you to be seen by the hospital within two weeks.

This is an **URGENT** referral because it is possible that you have cancer.

We need to refer you urgently because there is evidence that early diagnosis of cancer can increase the chances of successful treatment.

## Does this mean I have cancer?

**No it doesn't.** Most patients do not turn out to have cancer; they have another diagnosis.

## So why has my doctor referred me?

Most illnesses are successfully treated by doctors. 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 and it is important that this is done quickly.
- The treatment you have already received has not worked.
- Your tests have shown some abnormal results.
- To be sure you do not have serious disease.

## Will I need any tests?

You may need specialised tests before, during or following your first appointment at the hospital. These test results could help the specialist to understand the cause of your symptoms.

## What do I need to do now?

**TELL YOUR DOCTOR NOW** if you will be away on holiday or unable to attend the hospital appointment within the next two weeks.

- Make sure that your doctor has your correct address, telephone number, and mobile number is possible.
- The hospital will contact you by telephone to arrange an appointment, so the correct telephone number is very important. If they are not able to contact you by telephone they will send you an appointment letter.
- Talk to your doctor's surgery if you have not been contacted by the hospital within one week of your doctor's referral.
- 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.

## Help us get it right:

If you have a complaint, concern, comment or compliment please let us know by speaking to a member of our staff. We learn from your feedback and use the information to improve and develop our services.

You can also call the **Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)**. PALS provides non-medical advice and information about local NHS services. Call **0800 0525 270** (an answer machine is available out of hours) or email: [westyorkspals@nhs.net](mailto:westyorkspals@nhs.net)