

Patient information leaflet

The urgent 2 week wait referral system for symptoms suggestive of cancer

Why have I been referred to the hospital?

The 'Two Week' appointment system was introduced so that any patient with symptoms that might indicate a serious condition could be seen by a specialist as quickly as possible. Your GP or Dentist has asked for you to have an urgent hospital appointment within two weeks. This appointment may be to attend an outpatient clinic, or have diagnostic tests such as an x-ray or endoscopy.

Attending this appointment within two weeks is **vitaly important**. Early diagnosis of a serious condition such as cancer, is crucial to your treatment.

Does that mean I have cancer?

The majority of patients seen under the 'two week' system do not have cancer but may have another condition requiring hospital diagnosis and treatment.

So why has my GP or Dentist referred me?

- Your symptoms need further investigation to detect or rule out a serious disease *and/or*
- Investigations done by your GP/Dentist have shown some abnormal results *and/or*
- The treatment already prescribed has not worked.

GPs and Dentists diagnose and treat many illnesses and National Guidelines help them to make a decision about whether to refer you for further tests.

What do I need to do now?

- The hospital will arrange an appointment by phone or letter to you. Make sure that your GP (or dentist) has your correct address and phone number, including your mobile phone number.
- Please take the earliest appointment offered to you.
- Please feel free to bring someone with you. At the end of your appointment, the hospital staff will give you more information about what will happen next.
- Please try not to cancel your appointment. Let the hospital know immediately if you are unable to attend, so that the appointment can be offered to someone else. It is really important that you arrange an alternative date and time if cancelling this appointment.
- If you have not been contacted by the hospital within one week of seeing your GP or Dentist and being given this leaflet please telephone the hospital's booking team on **01903 205111 ext. 84997**
- If you have difficulty travelling to the hospital or are on a low income, help with transport and travel costs is available.
- If you have further questions regarding your referral please contact your GP or Dentist.

For further information visit NHS Choices on line at www.nhs.uk 