

Fast Track Referrals

What is a 'fast track' referral?

A fast track referral happens when your GP thinks your symptoms could be cancer. 9 out of 10 people referred will not have cancer. Symptoms could be caused by a number of common conditions.

The GP will make a referral to the hospital and an appointment to see a specialist is arranged. The hospital will contact you to arrange an appointment and any tests you might need.

Please remember to accept a telephone call from an unknown number and make sure your GP has your correct address, email address and telephone number, including any mobile number.

If you have not been contacted by the hospital within one week of your referral, please telephone the hospital you have been referred to.

How is it decided if you need tests?

To help the specialist understand the cause of your symptoms, you may need some tests before your appointment. The hospital will advise you what tests should be carried out and will make arrangements for you. It may only be during your appointment that the specialist decides you should have tests and these will then be arranged. Sometimes, while you are at the hospital, any tests you need may be arranged while you are there.

What if you cancel your appointment?

Your GP believes your symptoms need to be investigated as soon as possible, so it is important you are flexible when arranging this appointment. You should make every effort to attend the first appointment you are given. If you cannot make the time that has been arranged, please contact the hospital as soon as possible, so an alternative can be booked and this time slot can be given to someone else.

Will I have an online / telephone appointment?

The specialist team might contact you by telephone from time to time. This could be to arrange tests, to give you results, or to check that you have understood all the information that has been given to you at your appointment. Online appointments are rare but if the specialist team need to arrange an online appointment – they will discuss this with you first.

What if you need help to go to the hospital?

You can bring a friend, or a family member with you to your appointments.

If you cannot drive or arrange your own transport, or public transport is limited, you may be able to use the patient ambulance transport service. Please speak to the receptionist at your GP practice as soon as possible if this needs to be arranged.

Tips to prepare for your appointment

You will be given a lot of information during your appointment. You might find it helpful to consider the following:

- Write down any questions you have and take these with you.
- Take a pen and paper to write things down that the specialist tells you. Or ask a friend/ family member to write things down for you.
- Please remember to take your appointment letter with you.