



Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

Why has my GP requested that I attend for a test or to see a specialist within the next two weeks?

Information for patients about referral into the urgent two week suspected cancer pathway

Your general practitioner (GP) will be arranging for you to have an urgent hospital appointment within two weeks. The 'two week' appointment system is to ensure that anyone with symptoms suspicious of cancer will have specialised tests or be seen by a specialist within two weeks. This is to either rule out cancer or, if confirmed, to enable you to progress to treatment as soon as possible.

Does this mean I have cancer?

No. The majority of patients referred under the 'two week' appointment system do not have cancer; however cancer is a possibility that needs to be ruled out. **Only 1 in 10 people referred along this pathway are diagnosed with cancer.**

So why has my GP referred me?

GPs diagnose and treat many illnesses themselves. However, on occasion they need to arrange for you to see a specialist doctor. This could be for a number of reasons, such as:

- Your symptoms need further investigation, including tests.
- Investigations your GP arranged have shown some abnormal results.
- The treatment already prescribed has not been effective.
- To rule out serious disease.

What happens now?

- Make sure that your GP has your correct address and telephone number, including mobile number if possible.
- The hospital will try to contact you by telephone to arrange an appointment. Please be aware that this call may show on your phone as '*caller unknown*'. If they are not able to make telephone contact, an appointment letter will be sent in the post.
- If you have not been contacted by the hospital within two weeks of seeing or speaking with your GP and being given this leaflet, please telephone the hospital directly on 0118 322 6881.
- **It is important you make yourself available and attend this appointment.** Be prepared to cancel other arrangements to be able to accept your appointment
- At your first hospital appointment you will be given information about what will happen next.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Your safety and that of NHS staff is very important.

To minimise your risks while ensuring you have the necessary investigations, staff contacting you with your first appointment will advise whether it will be via telephone, a face-to-face 'video' consultation or a hospital attendance.

If you have any Coronavirus symptoms (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss or change to sense of smell or taste), or you need to self-isolate because a family member is unwell, please contact the telephone number on your appointment letter. **Do not go to the hospital or your appointment without speaking to them first.**

Handy hints

- Parking at Royal Berkshire Hospital is limited, so please allow additional time before your appointment if driving.
- For further information visit: www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/how-to-find-us/royal-berkshire-hospital.htm.

It is important to remember that even though you are getting an urgent referral, being referred to a specialist does not necessarily mean you have cancer.

You will be seen at one of the following hospitals:

Royal Berkshire Hospital

Craven Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 5AN

Townlands Memorial Hospital

York Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 2DR

West Berkshire Community Hospital

Benham Hill, Thatcham, Berkshire RG18 3AS

Bracknell Healthspace

Eastern Gate, Brants Bridge, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 9RT

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If you require this document in another language or would prefer it in large print, please call Tel: 0118 322 8338 / 0118 982 2875.

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