

Importance of Attending your Urgent 'Two Week Wait' Referral to Hospital

- Your GP feels your symptoms or recent test results **require further investigation to rule out cancer or serious disease**
- Whilst your symptoms may indicate that you have cancer, **the majority of patients** referred under the two week wait appointment scheme **do not**.

Information for Patients and Carers

Introduction:

This leaflet is to give you general information about your urgent 'Two Week Wait' referral to hospital. You have been referred on the two week wait pathway because your General Practitioner (GP) feels your symptoms require further investigations to rule out cancer or serious disease.

What is a 'Two Week Wait' referral?

A 'Two Week Wait' referral is a request from your GP to ask the hospital for an urgent appointment or investigation/specialist tests within 14 days. GPs can diagnose and treat most symptoms and illnesses themselves, however on some occasions a hospital assessment is required.

Should I be concerned?

It is appreciated that this is a worrying time for you, but hopefully you will be reassured that your GP is taking your symptoms seriously. Whilst your symptoms may indicate that you have cancer, the majority of patients referred under the two week wait appointment scheme **do not**. Not all patients will require a hospital appointment but will be contacted to inform them if this is the case.

Cancer treatment is more likely to be effective if the cancer is detected and treated early.

So what happens next?

You will shortly be contacted by the hospital, informing you of the date and time of your appointment, test or investigation. This will be within two weeks of the referral date at one of the three main Worcestershire Hospital sites. Therefore please make yourself available and ensure that your GP has your correct contact details, including mobile phone number.

Your appointment:

Prior to and at your appointment, you will be given further information about what will happen next depending upon your symptoms. You may need to undergo specialised tests before or during your hospital visit to assist with the diagnosis. You will be advised of these depending upon your symptoms.

Further information about the two week referral system and cancer is available from the following websites:
www.macmillan.org.uk

Guide to NHS waiting times:
www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/hospitals/guide-to-nhs-waiting-times-in-england/

Under the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018 we are responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of any information we hold about you. If you or your carer need information in a different format, such as large print, braille or audio, due to disability, impairment or sensory loss, please advise a member of staff and this can be arranged.