

Why have I been referred to hospital?

East of England
Strategic Clinical Networks

Important information about your appointment at the hospital within two weeks

Your hospital appointment

Your General Practitioner (GP) or dentist has asked for an appointment at the hospital for you within two weeks. This is because you have symptoms that could indicate cancer.

THE APPOINTMENT WILL BE IN THE NEXT 14 DAYS. PLEASE MAKE IT YOUR PRIORITY TO ATTEND.

Does this mean I have cancer?

The tests are to find out whether or not you have cancer. **Most people do not have cancer.** However, for the small number who do, seeing a specialist quickly can mean it is diagnosed and treated early.

Cancer diagnosed early is more likely to be treated successfully.

Why have I been referred?

A hospital specialist can do further investigations and tests. You may need these because:

- Your symptoms have not gone away and need to be investigated;
- The treatment already prescribed by your GP or dentist has not worked;
- Results from tests previous tests suggest you should see a specialist;
- To rule out a serious condition.

Will I need to have any tests?

You might need some tests.

You may have these:

1. At a hospital appointment **before** the specialist doctor/nurse sees you on a different day. (Sometimes your results mean you won't need to come back); or
2. The **same day** as your appointment with the specialist doctor or nurse; or
3. The specialist doctor or nurse might ask you to come back for tests **on a different day**, after they have seen you.

The specialist doctor will decide when you will have these tests.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO ATTEND ALL OF YOUR TEST APPOINTMENTS.

What should I do now?

Please check that your GP or dentist has your correct address, home and mobile phone numbers.

Tell your GP or dentist if there are any dates you are not available in the next two weeks.

The hospital will contact you by telephone or letter to arrange an appointment.

If you have not been contacted by the hospital within a week of seeing your GP/dentist, please contact your GP/dentist or the hospital appointment line.

Make sure you attend the hospital on the date and time stated on your appointment letter.

Contact the hospital *immediately* if there is any problem with the date or time of your appointment. Contact details will be on your letter.

How can I prepare for my appointment?

Please follow any instructions on your appointment letter. If you are having tests, this will include information about what to do to prepare for them.

Before your appointment, you might want to write down your symptoms, any medicines you are taking, and any questions you may wish to ask. You can bring someone with you to this appointment. You may find this helpful.

Take a notebook and some paper in case you wish to write down any information from your appointment, such as answers to questions. Please ask questions if there is something you don't understand.