

## Patient information leaflet

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

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#### Why have I been referred to the cancer investigation clinic?

- You have been referred to the Cancer Investigation Service for a number of reasons;
- You may have signs or symptoms that mean you need further tests, such as an x-ray or endoscopy.
- You may have a suspected diagnosis of cancer

Attending this appointment within two weeks is **very 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.

National guidelines help your GP to make a decision to refer you for an urgent appointment within two weeks.

#### What do I need to do now?

- Make sure that your GP has your correct address and telephone number, **including mobile phone number**, if you have one.
- The hospital will try to phone you to arrange an appointment, so the correct contact telephone number is very important. If they are not able to make telephone contact, they will send an appointment letter. Please take the earliest appointment offered to you.
- **Please try not to cancel your appointment.** Please 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.
- Please feel free to bring someone with you to this appointment. You may not get a diagnosis at the end of the appointment, so the hospital staff will give you more information about what will happen next. This may include contact details of a specialist nurse.
- If you have difficulty travelling to the hospital, do ask for information about help with transport when making your appointment, including help with travel costs if you are on a low income.
- If you have not been contacted by the hospital within one week of seeing your GP and being given this leaflet please telephone the hospital's booking team on 01273 696955 extn. 62897.
- If you have further questions regarding your referral please contact your GP.