



The Mid Yorkshire Hospitals
NHS Trust

Information for patients who have been referred to hospital on a Bowel Cancer Pathway

Why have I been referred to hospital on an urgent pathway?

Your local doctor (GP) has asked that you have an urgent hospital appointment or test **WITHIN TWO WEEKS** so that we can diagnose the reasons for your current symptoms.

Does this mean I have cancer?

No, it doesn't. Most patients who are given an appointment on a cancer pathway do not have cancer, but a simple or benign (non-cancer) condition.

Why does my GP think I need to be seen urgently?

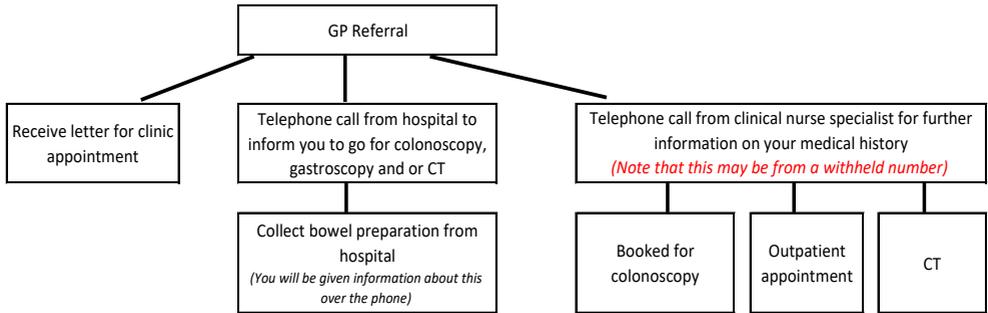
GPs detect and treat many illnesses themselves but sometimes they need you to see a specialist hospital doctor, or nurse, so that your illness can be investigated further. It is important that any disease is identified quickly, so that we can start your treatment in a timely manner to improve your health.

It is **important** that you are available for these to be carried out as we need to diagnose and treat you as quickly as possible. **Some of these tests may be carried out at other hospitals or external services in the community. You will be offered the next available appointment according to your symptoms. It is important to accept the appointment offered so as not to delay your diagnosis.**

Will I need any tests?

The diagram opposite shows the possible next steps once your GP has sent a referral into the hospital.

It is important to note that a colonoscopy is the best test to diagnose a bowel cancer.



How will I get my results?

You may have to make several visits to the hospital before a diagnosis is made. When you have your tests ask the hospital staff when you should expect to have your results available. You may be asked to come back to clinic for your results or alternatively if your investigations are entirely normal the specialist may just write to you and your GP with the results of your tests/investigations.

Waiting for your test results can be an anxious time. Your GP will continue to provide support and you can contact them if your symptoms get worse or if you have any concerns.

Contact details

If you have not heard from the hospital within two working days after seeing your GP please telephone the Colorectal Co-ordinator on: 01924 541223

For any concerns or worries your GP cannot answer please contact the team on: 01924 542458

If you would like more information about the two week wait appointment system or other health related information, log on to:

- NHS England (publications): www.england.nhs.uk or
- NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk

Please remember that even though you are being referred urgently to a hospital specialist, this does not necessarily mean you have cancer, but it is very important that you attend the appointments.

You can find out more about a wide range of health services and related issued on: www.midyorks.nhs.uk

This leaflet has been produced by The Cancer Management Team.



We are committed to providing high quality care. If you have a suggestion, comment, complaint or appreciation about the care you have received, or if you need this leaflet in another format please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service on: **01924 542972** or email: myh-tr.palsmidyorks@nhs.net

1884b

Updated April 2020
Review Date 2023



Dewsbury and District Hospital
Halifax Road, Dewsbury WF13 4HS

Pinderfields Hospital
Aberford Road, Wakefield WF1 4DG

Pontefract Hospital
Friarwood Lane, Pontefract WF8 1PL

 01924 541000

 @MidYorkshireNHS

 TheMidYorkshireHospitalsNHSTrust

 www.midyorks.nhs.uk