

## Patient information leaflet

### The urgent (including "2 week wait") referral system for symptoms suggestive of cancer

#### Why have I been referred to the hospital?

This urgent/'2 week' appointment system was introduced so that any patient with symptoms that might indicate a serious condition could be seen by a specialist as quickly as possible. Your GP or Dentist has asked for you to have an urgent hospital appointment within two weeks. This appointment may be to attend an outpatient clinic, or have diagnostic tests such as an x-ray or endoscopy.

Attending this appointment within two weeks is **very important**. Rapid diagnosis of a serious condition such as cancer is crucial to your treatment. Early diagnosis is the key to beating cancer - if caught early, many cancers are able to be treated successfully.

#### Does that mean I have cancer?

The majority of patients seen under the urgent/'2 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.

#### 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.**
- **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 if cancelling this appointment. Please telephone the hospital's booking team on 01273 696955 extn. 63999.
- 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. 63999.
- Please feel free to bring someone with you to this appointment. If you wish, they can come in with you to see the Doctor. Do not feel that you have to attend alone.
- At the end of your appointment, 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 further questions regarding your referral please contact your GP.