



Why has my GP requested that I attend for a test or to see a specialist within the next two weeks?

This leaflet outlines the referral into the Urgent Suspected Cancer pathway. The Urgent Suspected Cancer appointment system is to ensure that anyone with symptoms suspicious of cancer will have specialised tests or be seen by a specialist within two weeks. This is to either rule out cancer or, if confirmed, to enable you to progress to treatment as soon as possible.

Does this mean I have cancer?

No. The majority of patients referred under the 'Urgent Suspected Cancer' appointment system do not have cancer; however cancer is a possibility that needs to be ruled out. **Only 1 in 10 people referred along this pathway are diagnosed with cancer.**

So why has my GP referred me?

GPs diagnose and treat many illnesses themselves. However, on occasion they need to arrange for you to see a specialist hospital doctor. This could be for a number of reasons, such as:

- Your symptoms need further investigation, including tests.
- Investigations your GP arranged have shown some abnormal results.
- The treatment already prescribed has not been effective.
- To rule out serious disease.

What happens now?

- Make sure that your GP has your correct address and telephone number, including mobile number if possible.
- The hospital will try to contact you by telephone to arrange an appointment. Please be aware that this call may show on your phone as '*caller unknown*'. If they are not able to make telephone contact, an appointment letter will be sent in the post.
- If you have not been contacted by the hospital within two weeks of seeing or speaking with your GP and being given this leaflet, please telephone the relevant clinical admin team as listed on page 2.
- **It is important you make yourself available and attend this appointment.** Be prepared to cancel other arrangements so that you are able to accept your appointment time.
- At your first hospital appointment you will be given information about what will happen next.

Handy hints

- Parking at Royal Berkshire Hospital is limited, so please allow additional time before your appointment if driving.
- For further information visit:
www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/how-to-find-us/royal-berkshire-hospital.htm

It is important to remember that even though you are getting an urgent referral, being referred to a specialist does not necessarily mean you have cancer.

You will be seen at one of the following hospitals:

- **Royal Berkshire Hospital**, Craven Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 5AN
- **Townlands Memorial Hospital**, York Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 2DR
- **West Berkshire Community Hospital**, Benham Hill, Thatcham, Berkshire RG18 3AS
- **Bracknell Healthspace**, Eastern Gate, Brants Bridge, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 9RT

Contacting the Clinical Admin Teams:

Department	Telephone	Email
Breast	0118 322 6890	rbb-tr.cat2@nhs.net
Dermatology	0118 322 8145	rbb-tr.cat8@nhs.net
ENT, Maxillofacial & Oral	0118 322 7139	rbb-tr.cat1@nhs.net
Gastroenterology	0118 322 8391	rbb-tr.cat4@nhs.net
Gynaecology	0118 322 8964	rbb-tr.cat6@nhs.net
Haematology	0118 322 8145 option 2	rbb-tr.cat8@nhs.net
Neurology	0118 322 5474	rbb-tr.cat10@nhs.net
Ophthalmology	0118 322 7169	rbb-tr.cat2@nhs.net
Respiratory	0118 322 6676	rbb-tr.cat11@nhs.net
Urology	0118 322 8629	rbb-tr.cat3@nhs.net

If you are unsure which department to contact, please telephone the Cancer Referral Team on 0118 322 6881 or email rbb-tr.urgent-suspected-cancer-referrals@nhs.net

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

BHFT/RBFT, November 2024. Next review due: November 2026.

Compassionate

Aspirational

Resourceful

Excellent