



Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

The Lung Optimum Pathway (LOP)

Why you are being referred onto
the Lung Pathway, and what
this will involve

Your general practitioner (GP) has referred you to the Royal Berkshire Hospital to have specialised tests because of your symptoms. These may indicate a risk of cancer and we would like to carry out tests to either rule this out or arrange the earliest possible treatment. This pathway will enable you to have many tests on the same day and possibly give you the results of those tests. It may speed up any treatment you subsequently have.

Does this mean I have cancer?

No. The majority of patients referred on this pathway do not have cancer; however, it is a possibility that needs to be ruled out.

So why has my GP referred me?

GPs diagnose and treat many illnesses themselves. However, sometimes further examinations are necessary. This lung pathway gives quick and efficient access to multiple investigations and, possibly their results on the same day. This helps to get a quicker diagnosis and, if necessary, quicker treatment.

What happens now?

- Make sure that your GP has your correct address and telephone number, including mobile number if possible.
- Your GP may ask you to have a blood test. ***Please leave two days after your blood tests*** before attending the X-ray Department, so your results are available.
- **Within two weeks of seeing your GP**, attend the **X-ray Department (Radiology)** at the **Royal Berkshire Hospital** within the following times:
 - **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8.30-11.30am**

- After the X-ray, you will be asked to wait for the results.
- If further investigation is required, you will have a chest CT scan.
- If you are asked to wait for a CT and to see the specialist nurse, you may be in the hospital for **up to four hours**. It is advised to bring snacks and a drink with you.
- A **specialist lung nurse** will see you to discuss the results of your investigations.
- If you are unable to wait, or the test results are not available, you will be offered a clinic appointment on an alternative day.
- You may also want someone with you if receiving test results.

Summary:

When you see your GP	Your GP will:
	Make a referral for you to attend for a chest X-ray
	Give you this information leaflet.
	Arrange for you to have some blood tests, if required.
Your chest X-ray at the RBH	You will:
	Go to RBH on a <i>Monday, Tuesday or Thursday</i> between 8.30-11.30am for a chest X-ray. No appointment is required.
	Wait for results of chest X-ray.
	Have a CT scan of your chest (if required).
	See a specialist lung nurse to discuss your results
Next steps	The next appointment will be one of the following:
	Further tests to make a diagnosis.
	A specialist clinic appointment with a consultant.
	Discharged back to your GP.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Your safety and that of NHS staff is very important.

If you have any Coronavirus symptoms (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss or change to sense of smell or taste), or you need to self-isolate due to contact with someone who has tested positive, please contact the telephone number below. **Do not attend the hospital appointment without speaking to them first.**

Contact details

If you have any further questions please contact the Main X-ray Department, Level 1 Centre Block, Royal Berkshire Hospital, London Road, Reading RG1 5AN. Tel: **0118 322 7991**

Handy hints

- Parking at Royal Berkshire Hospital is in high demand, so please allow additional time before your appointment if arriving by car.
- For further information visit: www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/how-to-find-us/royal-berkshire-hospital.htm.
- As you may be in the hospital for up to four hours, you may want to bring a snack and drink with you.

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

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

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

Lung Optimum Pathway RBFT/BHFT, November 2023

Next review due: November 2025