

# The 28-Day Faster Diagnosis Standard

## Your referral to Ipswich Hospital

Your GP/dentist has arranged for you to see a specialist doctor at Ipswich Hospital because your symptoms need further investigation without delay. You may need further tests which can only be done at the hospital. Many things could be causing your symptoms but cancer might be one of them.

**You will be invited for an appointment or tests within one or two weeks as part of the 28-Day Faster Diagnosis Pilot.**

This has been introduced because it reduces the anxiety of waiting for appointments and because the earlier cancer is found, the more likely it is to be treated successfully.

The hospital will contact you by telephone to make an appointment then a confirmation letter will follow in the post. **It is very important that you attend.** Please check that your GP/dentist has up-to-date telephone contact numbers – including your mobile phone number – and your correct postal address.

If the hospital has not contacted you within seven days with an appointment – or if you have any questions – the hospital telephone number to call is **0845 8400 200**.

If there is no immediate answer, please leave a message and we will get back to you. Please call us immediately if there is any problem with the date or time of the appointment we have agreed with you. We can then offer that slot to someone else and rearrange your own appointment.

## What will happen at your appointment?

Your hospital letter will tell you which consultant's team you will be seeing and where to find them.

You might need some tests before, or on the same day as, your appointment.

After discussion of your symptoms, you may need to come back on another day for tests. The hospital letter will tell you what the tests involve and what, if anything, you need to do to prepare.

## What you can do to plan for your appointment.

Think about how you will get to the hospital and how long it will take. The appointment may take longer than you, or the hospital, expect. Try to make sure that you have childcare if needed and that your work knows that you have the appointment.

Try to bring a friend or family member to be with you.

It might help to write down details about your exact symptoms, such as when you first noticed them and any medication or treatment you have had. It might be useful to bring some paper to write down any information given to you, such as when and how to expect your test results.

## Your test results

Our aim is to discuss and explain any examination and test results within four weeks.

If cancer is ruled out it is still important that you pay attention to your body. Tell your GP/dentist if you notice any unusual or persistent changes.

If you need further treatment for a medical condition it will be arranged within the hospital and your GP/dentist will be contacted.

If cancer is found you will be anxious but the hospital team will support you and treatment will start as soon as possible. You will also be given information about the many other organisations that can help you.