

Non-specific symptoms faster diagnosis pathway

Patient information

**If you need this leaflet in a different language or accessible format
please speak to a member of staff who can arrange it for you.**

اگر به این بروشور به زبان دیگر یا در قالب دسترس پذیر نیاز دارید،
لطفاً با یکی از کارکنان صحبت کنید تا آن را برای شما تهیه کند.

Jeśli niniejsza ulotka ma być dostępna w innym języku lub formacie,
proszę skontaktować się z członkiem personelu, który ją dla Państwa przygotowuje.

Dacă aveți nevoie de această broșură într-o altă limbă sau într-un format accesibil,
vă rog să discutați cu un membru al personalului să se ocupe
de acest lucru pentru dumneavoastră

如果您需要本传单的其他语言版本或无障碍格式，请联系工作人员为您安排。

إذا احتجت إلى هذه النشرة بلغة أخرى، أو بتنسيق
يسهل الوصول إليه، يرجى التحدث إلى أحد الموظفين لترتيب ذلك لك.

What is a faster diagnosis pathway?

The Faster Diagnosis Pathways are designed to ensure patients are investigated and have cancer diagnosed or ruled out within 28 days of their referral.

For those diagnosed with cancer, this means they can start their treatment and next steps can be agreed quickly.

Your symptoms may be caused by a number of common conditions. Although there may be a concern that your symptoms could suggest cancer, it is important to remember that 92% of patients referred with suspected cancer do not receive a cancer diagnosis.

The pathway will exclude cancer quickly for these patients, giving reassurance sooner.

Catching cancer early is key to receiving the most effective treatment and increasing the survival rate. Beginning treatment earlier will reduce the spread of cancer.

Each cancer site performs to Faster Diagnostic Standards.

You have been referred to the Non-Specific Symptoms (NSS) Faster Diagnostic Pathway (FDP).

Who will be looking after me?

The NSS team consists of a team of doctors and nurses who specialise in acute medicine and oncology (cancer).

The NSS team consists of a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) that work together to ensure that you have the most appropriate tests to get a diagnosis and management plan put in place as soon as possible.

Why have I been referred to a non-specific symptoms pathway?

A clinician has referred you to the NSS pathway because you have symptoms that may need further investigation.

These symptoms are not specific of the common cancer and may include:

- Unintentional weight loss in the last three months
- Abnormal blood tests
- Unexplained abdominal pain of four weeks or more
- Unexplained or progressive pain, including bone pain of four weeks or more
- Sweats or night sweats
- Persistent and unexplained symptoms such as:
 - Nausea/bloating
 - Loss of appetite
 - Fatigue/extreme tiredness

Other reasons for referral may include:

- Radiological imaging that shows suspicion for cancer
- Participation within a clinical trial such as: Galleri®

What tests will I have?

Following your initial appointment, you will be informed if you need any further tests. These will be arranged for you by the Nurse Specialist.

Further tests could include:

- Blood tests
- X-rays - a test to look at bones and the inside of your body
- CT scan (Computerised Tomography) - an x-ray that gives more detailed images of the inside of your body
- Endoscopy - a procedure to look inside your body with a thin flexible tube with a camera on one end

You will be provided with further information regarding each test you may need.

Getting your results

When all your results are available, they will be discussed with our Consultant. You will then be contacted by the nurse specialist to discuss your results either in person or over the telephone alongside any next steps that may be required.

Your GP surgery will be kept updated with all your test results.

Useful information and support

The following websites may be helpful to you:

<https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer>
<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/>
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/cancer/faster-diagnosis/>

If you are struggling and require support, the Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Service at 29 Wright Street Southport, PR9 0TL provides a confidential, drop-in service for anyone affected by cancer.

Please call 01704 533024 or email:
sfccg.macmillanic@nhs.net

Enquiries and further Information:

Nurse Specialist: _____

Consultant: _____

If you have any questions about this service, please do not hesitate to contact the team:

Phone:
01704 705237

E-mail:
Soh-tr.vaguesymptoms@merseywestlancs.nhs.uk

Address:

Southport Hospital,
Acute Oncology
Town Lane,
Kew,
Southport,
PR8 6PN

Working hours:

Monday to Friday 9am-5pm
(Exclusive of bank holidays).

There may be students and observers present during your consultation as part of their ongoing training. Please let the staff know if you do not wish any students to be present during your attendance.

Please ask a member of staff if you would like a chaperone present during your procedure.

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