



# Important Information about your Urgent 'Two Week Wait' Referral to Hospital

- Your GP feels your symptoms or recent test results require further investigation to rule out cancer or serious disease
- Whilst your symptoms may indicate that you have cancer, the majority of patients referred under the two week wait appointment scheme do not.

## Due to the Covid-19 pandemic things are being done a little differently.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we are doing things differently to keep you and our staff safe. We have worked hard during this year to put systems in place to ensure you can receive treatment whilst at the same time being assured that we have a safe environment.

When you attend your appointment please:

- Do not arrive more than 15 minutes early for your appointment and do not bring anyone else with you unless it is absolutely necessary.
- Wear a face covering at all times, a surgical mask may be provided for you upon entry to the hospital or clinic (unless you are exempt from wearing a face covering/mask).
- Follow one-way foot-traffic systems as outlined throughout the hospital/clinic and ensure that you observe social distancing guidelines in waiting areas.

Hospital and clinic staff will be wearing PPE, this is to ensure their own safety as well as yours. **Please do not** enter a hospital or clinic building if any of the following apply to you:

- You have any of the symptoms of Covid-19; or
- You have had a positive test result within the last 10 days; or
- You have recently come into close contact with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive for Covid-19.

If this is the case, please contact the hospital to rearrange your appointment.

## General Information for Patients and Carers

This leaflet is to give you general information about your urgent 'Two Week Wait' referral to hospital. You have been referred on the two week wait pathway because your General Practitioner (GP) feels your symptoms require further investigations to rule out cancer or serious disease.

### What is a 'Two Week Wait' referral?

A 'Two Week Wait' referral is a request from your GP to ask the hospital for an urgent specialist review and/or investigation/test'. GP's can diagnose and treat most symptoms and illnesses themselves, however on some occasions, review and/or assessment by a specialist is required.

### Should I be concerned?

It is appreciated that this is a worrying time for you, but hopefully you will be reassured that your GP is taking your symptoms seriously. Whilst your symptoms may indicate you have cancer, the majority of patients referred on a two week wait pathway will not.

It is however essential that you take your referral seriously as conditions such as cancer, if detected early, can be treated more effectively.

### So what happens next?

Your GP will have made a two week wait referral to Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and you will be contacted shortly to confirm what happens next. To avoid unnecessary delay in managing your referral, please ensure the following:

- Your GP has your correct contact details including home address and preferred contact number such as mobile telephone number;
- You are available over the next 14-days to accommodate telephone consultations, appointments and/or investigations/tests.

**If you have not heard anything within 14 days of your referral being made, please contact your GP practice.**