

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TWO WEEK WAIT APPOINTMENT**



**Supporting people in Dorset to lead healthier lives**

## Why have I been referred for an appointment within two weeks?

Early diagnosis of a disease may mean more effective treatment and better results.

Where there is a possibility symptoms could indicate cancer, people are referred urgently to see a specialist (on what is called a 'two-week pathway').

The majority of people referred this way do not have cancer, but it is important to see a specialist as soon as possible to confirm or exclude a cancer diagnosis.

This leaflet sets out what you can do to help ensure you are seen quickly and what to do if you aren't.

## What does this mean?

General Practitioners (GPs) diagnose and treat many illnesses.

However, on occasion, they may need to arrange for you to see a hospital doctor who specialises in your particular problem. e.g.

- your GP feels your symptoms need further investigation;
- the treatment your GP has already provided has not been effective;
- investigations your GP has already arranged have shown some unusual results.

If your symptoms could possibly indicate cancer, then your GP will refer you on a two-week urgent referral pathway, so a specialist can see you as quickly as possible.





### **What do I need to do?**

- Ensure your GP has your correct address and contact details – including your mobile/daytime telephone number;
- The local hospital will contact you to fix an appointment date, please do your best to fit in with what they are offering;
- If you are unable to keep your appointment, please contact the relevant clinic within the hospital as soon as possible;
- If you have any concerns or questions, discuss them with your GP.

### **What if my appointment is more than two weeks after the referral?**

To help ensure you are seen quickly, you now have a legal right to be seen by a specialist within two weeks of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by your GP.

If you are not offered an appointment within two weeks of the hospital receiving the referral from your GP and you do not wish to wait longer than two weeks, you need to contact the hospital you have been referred to.

If the hospital have not contacted you within a week with an appointment, then you should contact your GP for advice about how to pursue this.

# Useful Websites

## Dorset CCG

[www.dorsetccg.nhs.uk](http://www.dorsetccg.nhs.uk)

## NHS Choices

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

## Dorset Patient Transport Bureau

[www.dorsetptb.co.uk](http://www.dorsetptb.co.uk)

## Patient Transport Services

If you require transport to your appointment (and meet the patient transport eligibility criteria) please contact the Dorset Patient Transport Bureau on 0300 777 5555 who will be able to advise you regarding transport arrangements.

### Your Appointment

Write details of your appointment here to keep for your records:

Date .....

Time .....

Place .....