

Your urgent suspected cancer referral

What is an urgent suspected cancer referral?

Your GP, dentist, nurse or eye doctor (an optometrist) has arranged for you to have tests or see a hospital doctor, known as a specialist. This is to investigate your symptoms and find out what is wrong.

Most people will not have cancer, but if you do, early diagnosis and treatment are important.

You will get your appointment as soon as possible. It might be a phone appointment or at the hospital.



01. Receiving your urgent referral

You may get your appointment details by post, email, NHS App or over the phone. If you have a phone call, the number might not display. Please do answer.

It's important that you go to all your appointments. If you can't attend, contact the hospital to rearrange.

If your symptoms change, get worse, or if new symptoms develop, contact your GP surgery.

Handy Hints

- ✓ Check your GP has your current contact details.
- ✓ If you don't get appointment details in 10–14 days, contact your GP surgery. Tell them it's an urgent suspected cancer referral.



More than 9 in 10 people referred this way are not diagnosed with cancer.*



02. Going to your appointment

You may be sent straight for tests, or you might speak to a specialist first.

Handy Hints

- ✓ Make sure you know where you're going.
- ✓ Check if you can take a family member or friend with you for support.
- ✓ Tell the hospital about any accessibility requirements



03. Having tests

You should receive information about your tests and anything you need to do before.

You may need to have more than one test on different days.

Handy Hints

- ✓ Ask how you will get your results and how long it will take.
- ✓ You can find information about different tests at [cruk.org/urgentreferrals](https://www.cruk.org/urgentreferrals)

