

Cancer Services

Non-specific symptoms cancer pathway

This leaflet is designed to help you understand the non-specific symptoms (NSS) cancer pathway. It tells you what will happen over the **next 2 weeks** after your GP refers you.

It is important you go to all appointments so we can make a fast diagnosis.

Please read this information carefully. If you'd like more information, please ask your GP.

Why you've been referred

The NSS cancer pathway is part of a national programme. It is designed to find the quickest, most efficient way to reach a diagnosis for patients who have non-specific symptoms.

Your GP has found you have one or more non-specific symptoms. These symptoms are called "non-specific" as they affect the whole person.

Symptoms can include:

- loss of appetite
- tiredness
- nausea
- abdominal pain

The cause of these symptoms is often unclear after your GP has assessed you. There could be many reasons for these symptoms.



Patient Information

There is a very low risk these non-specific symptoms are caused by a serious disease such as cancer. However, for some patients early tests can help doctors diagnose conditions quicker and start treatment sooner.

Your GP will refer you to the hospital team for tests.
Patients who are referred to us may need:

- diagnostic scans such as CT or MRI scans
- blood tests
- a poo test, if not already done by your GP

An appointment with a specialist will be made if needed. This depends on your test results.

What you need to do when on this pathway

Your GP will give you this information leaflet and a poo collection pack for you to collect a sample. You'll also be asked to attend for blood tests.

Your GP will send the hospital team:

- your symptoms
- your examination findings
- your medical history
- any recent test results

You'll be called **within 2 weeks of referral by your GP and offered an appointment** to see the hospital team or to go for tests.

After your first call, the NSS team will review the information from your GP and your test results.

The next step will be **one** of the following:

- refer you back to a hospital specialist or NSS clinic
- arrange any further tests needed, which will be within 2 weeks
- refer you back to your GP for advice

Summary of the NSS pathway

Summary of NSS pathway	
When you see your GP	Your GP will:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make a referral to the NSS pathway.• Give you this information leaflet.• Give you a poo sample pack to return to the practice.• Arrange for you to have some blood tests
At your first appointment at the hospital	You will:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be seen in a specialist clinic at the Hospital site with a member of the NSS team• Be given the opportunity to ask any questions.• Further tests if needed to make a diagnosis,
Further appointments at the hospital	The next appointment may be one of the following:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imaging within the radiology department CT scan or MRI scan

Follow-up

The NSS team will decide your follow-up care. They decide this based on your clinical information and test results.

You may need more tests if more information is needed.

You may need referral to a specialist who will assess you in person. This could be a cancer referral or a referral for another medical condition.

If your results from scans and other tests don't suggest you need more tests or treatment, the NSS team will write to your GP.

Patient Information

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact 024 7696 7238 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke-free policy.

Did we get it right?

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Document History

Department:	Cancer services
Contact:	27238
Updated:	September 2023
Review:	August 2024
Version:	1.1
Reference:	HIC/LFT/2806/23