

Lung Support team

An information leaflet for services provided at chest clinic for urgent referrals

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You have been referred to chest clinic because your GP is concerned about some changes which have been happening to you or changes which have been observed on your chest X-ray. This information sheet is a guide to inform you what may happen and what tests may be required. You will be given more detailed information as it is required.

What will happen at the chest clinic?

You will be seen by the consultant or another senior doctor and a lung nurse specialist. You will need to have a chest X-ray, unless you have recently had one. Your doctor will examine you and explain the findings. More tests may be required.

During your consultation the lung nurse specialist will also be aware and assessing for any medical or social problems that may benefit from additional discussion or support. This is called an "Holistic Needs Assessment" (HNA.) If you have any concerns that go unnoticed, you may also request an HNA with the lung nurse specialist.

What other tests may the doctor need?

Lung function

This is a simple blowing test to see how well your lungs are working. This test will be done at your first appointment. It may be necessary to do some more detailed breathing tests at a later date.

Patient Information

Blood tests

Routine blood tests may be required and these can be done after the first appointment. Blood tests at the Hospital can be booked online or it may be possible to have a “walk-in” appointment. Blood tests can also be done at either your GP surgery or local chemist.

CT Scan

The doctor may require a CT (computerised tomography) scan to explore the extent of the problem identified. You may have had the scan prior to your clinic appointment; if not, you will be informed about an appointment through the post or via the telephone.

Biopsy:

A biopsy may be required to determine the nature of the abnormality seen. There are different ways that this can be done and will depend on the results of your CT scan. The doctor will discuss this with you and you will be provided with the relevant information for the procedure required.

Other tests and scans may be required to get more information. These tests will be discussed with you and information given to you as and when needed.

What happens next?

When all of the required tests are completed, all of the results will be brought together in a meeting which is currently held on a Thursday morning, although X-rays and scans alone may be reviewed at a Tuesday meeting. It may take several days for your results to come through and your case will be discussed at the next available meeting.

Who will be at this meeting?

At the meeting there will be many different specialists, doctors and nurses. These will include chest doctors, surgeons, pathologists (doctors who examine the biopsies), X-ray doctors, cancer specialists and lung nurse specialists. You are not expected to attend this meeting.

What will happen after the meeting?

On most occasions the Lung Nurse Specialist will contact you by telephone and offer you a clinic appointment to see the doctor to discuss the results. You may like to bring a friend or family member with you to this appointment. If you would like a copy of the discussion of any clinic appointment, please ask the doctor. Sometimes it might be appropriate for a telephone consultation to take place with the Lung Nurse Specialist rather than a clinic appointment; this will be decided on an individual basis. There may be opportunities for you to be included in clinical trials and research studies; if so, this will be discussed with you at the appropriate time.

Patient Information

Useful telephone numbers

University Hospital Switchboard:	024 7696 4000
Rugby St Cross Switchboard:	01788 572831
Lung Support Nurses Direct line:	024 7696 5505
NHS 111	

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

Please contact 024 7696 5505.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

Document History

Contact no:	25055
Published:	July 2006
Reviewed:	Feb 2007, Feb 2008, Feb 2009, Feb 2010, May 2011 July 2013; Jan 2015, Aug 2016, June 2018
Review:	Aug 2020
Version:	11
Reference:	HIC/LFT/501/07