

## **Patient Information for Urgent Suspected Cancer Referrals during Coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19)**

**This information sheet explains why your GP has referred you to hospital,  
what it means and what you need to do**

### **Why have I been referred urgently to hospital?**

You have been referred to hospital because your GP feels your symptoms may suggest cancer. To rule this out you have been referred to a specialist for further investigation.

### **Does this mean I have cancer?**

There are many common conditions that your symptoms could be linked to, cancer is one of the possibilities. Most people who have an urgent suspected cancer referral, do not have cancer, but it is important to rule it out.

### **COVID-19**

Due to the coronavirus outbreak a cancer specialist will decide whether you need to come in for a diagnostic test or whether you should have a telephone assessment. Hospitals are only asking patients to visit a hospital if it is necessary and there may be some slight delay in receiving an appointment.

**If you are required to visit the hospital, attending this appointment is included as one of the four reasons the UK Government has given for people to leave their house.**

**However, if you or a member of your household are self-isolating, you must contact the hospital prior to attending your appointment on the number issued to you by the hospital you plan to attend. They will then provide you with guidance.**

### **Any questions?**

If you have any concerns or questions regarding your referral to hospital, please contact your GP surgery.

### **Ensure you tell your GP:**

- Your correct email and home address and telephone number including a mobile number if you have one, so the hospital can contact you.
- If you are unable to have a telephone assessment within the next two weeks.
- If you require a translator, so this information is entered on your referral.
- If you have not heard from the hospital within two weeks.
- If you develop any symptoms of coronavirus after you have been referred (notably fever or cough). You should also inform the hospital if this happens

### **Useful links for further information about cancer during the corona virus pandemic**

<https://about-cancer.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/cancer-in-general/coronavirus-and-cancer>

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/coronavirus/cancer-and-coronavirus>