

Why have I been referred urgently to the HPB department for a suspected cancer?

Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic
Department (HPB)
Information for Patients

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You are getting this information because you have either:

- Been referred by your GP with a suspected cancer
- Been referred by your local hospital with a suspected cancer
- Had a recent admission in Leicester (or gone to the Emergency Department) where your scans have shown a suspected cancer.

HPB treats cancers and investigates and treats conditions that affect the gallbladder, liver, pancreas, adrenal (a small organ that sits on top of your kidney) or spleen. The person who has referred you will have told you which organ they want looked at.

Does this mean I have cancer?

No, it does not.

Many patients referred to us urgently do not have cancer. You may have a non-cancerous condition which may or may not need further treatment. It is important that we find out what is causing your problems quickly. We can then start any treatment quickly and put your mind at rest. It is important that you attend the earliest appointment we offer you.

Will I need any tests?

You may have already had some tests which led to your referral. It is likely that you might need more tests. These may include having small sample of tissue taken for testing (biopsies). Our aim is to do these tests and/or biopsies as quickly as possible. We want to make sure there is little delay to any treatment you might need. It may not be possible to see you in clinic after each test to tell you of the “next step”. This could add to delays.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

It is important to check your post. Please keep your phone with you. We will contact you by letter and/or text message over the next few weeks.

We often organise the tests listed below. You are unlikely to need all of these. But it is useful to know what they are and why they are being done.

Further scans which might be needed:

- CT scan of your abdomen, liver or pancreas
- CT scan of your chest
- MRI scan of your liver or an MRCP (another type of MRI scan. It looks at the ducts within the liver)
- PET-CT (a highly specialised scan that can show infection or cancer in the body)
- Gallium or octreotide scan. A highly specialised scan used to look for very specific cancers that involve hormones. You might need to go to either London or Coventry
- HIDA scan (a highly specialised scan done over 2 days. It can check how the liver is working)
- Fibroscan (a scan which tells us how the liver is)

Camera (endoscopy) tests which might be needed:

Most of our camera tests are done under sedation (medication which is used help you relax). They can be done as a day case procedure if somebody can stay with you overnight.

If you take any blood-thinning medication (but not aspirin), it is important that you let the booking team know. You will need to stop these for a few days before the camera test. It is also important (if possible) if you can tell us why you have been started on this medication.

- Endoscopic ultrasound: a camera test which allows very detailed images of the liver and pancreas and biopsies to be taken
- ERCP: A camera test used to treat yellowing of the skin (jaundice). It can also let biopsies to be taken
- OGD: A simpler type of endoscopy. It looks at the lining of the food pipe (gullet) or stomach

Biopsies:

A biopsy is when we take a small “bite” of tissue. We can check it to see if there is cancer or not. The camera tests above can all take biopsies.

Some patients need a biopsy done after local numbing of the skin. We pass a special needle the skin. This is known as an ultrasound guided biopsy.

Other tests you might need

You may also need to have checks of your general fitness. We may call some for:

- An echocardiogram (an USS of the heart to see how well it is pumping)
- Lung function tests (to see how healthy your lungs are)
- A C-PET or “Bike” test. You will be asked to pedal on a bike. We will take detailed measurements of your heart and lungs. It is important for this test that you let us know of any recent surgery or condition which will affect how well you can pedal. It is also important for this test that you try your hardest and pedal until you are not able to carry on.

Who else will contact me?

The departments which organise the above tests will be in touch. The following people may also get in touch to see how you are whilst you have these tests:

- Clinical Nurse Specialists. These are specialist nurses. They guide and advise you during the next few weeks
- Dietitian if we are worried that you are losing too much weight, we might ask the dietitian to give you a call
- Diabetes Specialist Nurse if you have new-onset or pre-existing diabetes. They can guide you on managing your blood sugars
- High Risk Anaesthetic Clinic. This is a clinic where an anaesthetist will see you to find out more about your general fitness.

These staff cannot give you results or answer all your questions till we have we have all your results back. We will make sure that we see you in clinic when we have enough information to come up with a plan for your care.

We will also make sure that you see the doctor who can best deal with your specific needs following all your results. This might be

- a surgeon (who operates on liver, pancreas, spleen or adrenal organs),
- an oncologist (specialists in treating cancer)
- a hepatologist (specialists in liver disorders).

What do I need to do now?

Make sure your GP practice has your correct address and phone number. Please include a mobile number if possible. The hospital may contact you by phone or letter to arrange the appointment. It is important we have the correct contact details.

Once you have agreed a hospital appointment, you must follow any instructions and attend on the date agreed.

At your first appointment, we will give you more information about what will happen next.

You can bring someone with you to this appointment as you may find this helpful.

You might want to write down some questions to ask at the appointment. You can also write down the answers we give you..

If you have not been contacted by the hospital within 4 working days of the appointment with your GP then please contact the Two Week Wait Office on 0116 250 2543.

How long will I wait?

We aim to tell you that you either have or do not have cancer within 4 weeks (28 days) from when we get your referral. If you have not heard from the hospital within 4 working days of your clinician's appointment, please call the Two Week Wait Office on 0116 2502543.

Hospital transport

If you have mobility problems where you need hospital transport to your appointment, please call 0300 777 1800 to discuss.

Contact details:

If you have any queries about when your next test or out-patient will be, please contact the Two Week Office on 0116 250 2543.

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

જે તુમીં ઇંચ જાહવારી વિમે હેર બામ્મા વિંચ ચાહુંદે હે, ઝાં વિરખા વરવે હેઠાં હિંઝે ગાદે નંબર 'હે ટેલીફોન વરે।

Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

Previous reference:

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk



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