

# Gastroenterology

## Patient information leaflet: Upper Gastrointestinal (Upper GI) Urgent Suspected Cancer (USC) Referral

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### Purpose of the leaflet

You have been given this leaflet because you have been referred on the Upper GI USC pathway at Wye Valley NHS Trust. This leaflet will explain why you have been referred, what is likely to happen while you are on the pathway and what to do if you need to contact the department or rearrange an appointment.



## **What is an Urgent Suspected Cancer (USC) referral?**

The USC referral has been introduced to ensure that specialists will see any patient with symptoms that might indicate cancer as quickly as possible.

## **Why has my GP referred me?**

GPs diagnose and treat many illnesses but may need to arrange for you to be seen by a specialist for some of the following reasons:

- The treatment already given by your GP has not worked.
- Your symptoms need tests that have to be done at the hospital.
- Tests arranged by your GP have shown results that are not normal.
- Your GP suspects cancer.

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

This referral doesn't mean you have cancer. More than 7 out of 10 patients who are referred for an Upper GI USC appointment do not have cancer.

## **How important is it for me to attend my appointment?**

It is very important that you are available to attend appointments for a 4 week period after your referral so that we can do any tests required and rule out cancer as soon as possible.

## **What symptoms might need a USC referral?**

- Heartburn or indigestion (pain in your abdomen)
- Difficulty swallowing
- Unexplained weight loss
- Nausea (feeling sick) or vomiting
- Changes in bowel habits
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin)

## **What should I do if I can't attend an appointment?**

This is an important referral. Please tell the hospital when they contact you if you cannot attend an appointment you have been given. It is important to be available for appointments for 4 weeks after the referral is made. If you will be unavailable during this time please let your GP and the hospital know.

## **What do I need to do?**

Please make sure that the GP and the hospital have your correct address and telephone number (including a mobile phone number if possible).

If you have been asked to book an appointment please contact the Referral Management Centre at the hospital. The number is 01432 383100 – then select option 1.

Make sure you are available to attend appointments in the next 4 weeks.

## **What tests will I have?**

You might be seen by a specialist to assess what tests you need when you are referred or you might get an appointment for some tests before seeing the specialist.

These are some of the tests that patients referred to the Upper GI pathway will have to investigate their symptoms.

### **OGD (Oesophageal Gastric Duodenoscopy)**

This is a thin flexible telescope with a camera on the end that is passed through your mouth and into your stomach. The pictures can be seen on a TV screen by the specialist.

Sometimes small samples of tissue will be taken but you won't feel this.

You will be given something to numb your throat and possibly a sedative to help you manage the test. Further information will be given when you receive your appointment on how you need to prepare for this test.

### **ERCP (Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangio-Pancreatography)**

This is a thin flexible telescope with a camera on the end that is passed through your mouth, into your stomach then past the stomach to the tubes that connect your stomach and pancreas. The pictures can be seen on a TV screen by the specialist. Sometimes small samples of tissue will be taken but you will not feel this.

You will be given a sedative to help you manage the test. Further information will be given when you receive your appointment on how you need to prepare for this test

### **TNE (Trans-nasal Endoscopy)**

This is a thin flexible telescope with a camera on the end that is passed through your nose and into your stomach. The pictures can be seen on a TV screen by the specialist.

Sometimes small samples of tissue will be taken but you won't feel this.

You will be given something to numb your throat to help you manage the test. Further information will be given when you receive your appointment on how you need to prepare for this test.

## **CT (Computed Tomography)**

This is a scan which uses x-rays and a computer to create detailed images of the inside of the body. You lie still on a bed and pass through a ring-shaped machine.

You may be given a special dye to improve the quality of the images. This could be injected, swallowed, or given in the form of a tablet as an enema. Further information will be given when you receive your appointment on how you need to prepare for this test.

## **Ultrasound**

This is a scan of your stomach and abdomen using sound waves. You will lie down on a bed and have a gel put on your skin. The specialist operating the machine will then move a small hand-held probe over your skin. The pictures can be seen on a TV screen by the specialist.

Further information will be given when you receive your appointment on how you need to prepare for this test.

## **What happens if I require a sedative for one of my tests?**

A sedative is a type of medicine, normally given as an injection that helps you to be more relaxed and comfortable for a test. This type of medicine will make you drowsy (sleepy) and you won't be able to drive home after the test.

If you are having sedation for your test you must bring someone with you who can take you home after the test and stay with you for 12 hours. This is because it takes time for the sedative to leave your body and you will need to rest.

If you need to have a sedative the specialist team will give you more information.

## **How will I be told about the results of my tests?**

Some patients are told about their results at an appointment with the specialist. This may be face to face at the hospital or over the phone.

Some patients are told about their results in a letter or a text message.

If you receive a text message with your results there will be a follow up letter with more detail for you and your GP.

We will never give you a cancer diagnosis over the phone or in a letter or text message.

If you don't want to receive a text message of your results ruling out cancer you can contact the Upper GI Team on 01432 364117.

### **Useful contact numbers**

Referral Management Centre: 01432 383100 – then select option 1

Endoscopy Department: 01432 803060

Radiology Department: 01432 804464

Upper GI Team: 01432 364117

### **How to provide feedback**

Our aim is to provide a quality of care we would want for ourselves, our families and friends. If there was anything that we could have done please let us know via the department/ward staff or the patient experience team available on 01432 372986 or email [PALs@wvt.nhs.uk](mailto:PALs@wvt.nhs.uk) (opening times may vary).

This leaflet is available in large print, Braille, Audio tape or other languages upon request. Please contact patient experience team on the above telephone number.

You may be asked to give your opinion on the service you have received. We welcome your feedback as this will help us to improve the care and treatment we provide to our patients.

[Wye Valley NHS Trust](#)

Telephone 01432 355444