

Your referral to the Rapid Cancer Diagnostic Service (RCDS)



You have been referred to a fast-track service so that your symptoms can be investigated by a team of specialists to **rule out cancer**.

Expect a Phone Call

After you have been referred, a member of the Rapid Cancer Diagnostic Service (RCDS) team will call you. This should be within working days. This call may appear from an unknown number so please don't ignore it. To help, please make sure that the health professional referring you has your most up to date contact information.



The team will go through your medical history and ask questions about your existing symptoms and general wellbeing, to ensure the team understand the symptoms you are experiencing and can choose the most useful tests for you.

Please have a note of your recent symptoms and the medications you are taking to hand.



Named Contact

During this call, you should receive the name and contact details of the person who will support you throughout your time at the RCDS. They will be able to answer any questions or queries you or your family may have throughout the process and will keep you informed about next steps.

Use this space to note down any key contact details you are provided with.



Tests and Investigations

The team will decide which tests are best to investigate your symptoms and arrange these for you. You'll be informed of the location, date and time of your appointment(s) in advance. Please be aware that this appointment may be at short notice and you may have to attend the hospital for most of the day. If you don't need further tests after the initial call with the RCDS team, the person who referred you will be notified and you will be referred back to their care.

You will be informed of anything you may have to prepare in advance and of the latest infection control guidance in your area; for example if you're allowed to be accompanied by a friend/family member at your appointment(s).



It's important that you attend any appointments that are made for you. If you are unable to attend, get in touch using the details you've been provided with as soon as possible.

Having tests can be a worrying time. If you have any questions or concerns whilst you are waiting for test results, please speak to your named contact.



Results

Once your investigations are completed within the RCDS, your named contact will let you know what will happen next and your GP practice will also be kept informed.



You should expect to get your results usually within _____ days of your referral to the RCDS.



You may be referred to another specialist team for further tests or treatment or discharged back to the care of the person who referred you.

We want you to be fully involved in decisions about your care. Asking your healthcare professionals the following questions will help you decide the tests and treatments that are right for you. We therefore encourage you to ask the **BRAN** questions:

- What are the **B**enefits?
- What are the **R**isks?
- What are the **A**lternatives?
- What if I do **N**othing?

Use this space to write down any questions you may want to ask or key pieces of information.