

Cancer Referrals to CHFT

Please note things are changing frequently at this time and further updates will follow. Current changes are outlined below.

Telephone Triage

COVID 19 has accelerated the need to move to telephone triage of patients referred on 2 week cancer pathways.

Telephone triage already exists for:

- Lung
- Lower GI/Prostate

The following areas will now move to telephone triage:

- Haematology
- Dysphagia patients
- Head and Neck
- Non visible Haematuria
- Breast

Telephone triage is not viable for Dermatology/skin referrals as these are difficult to assess over the telephone. Where possible the GP should undertake a video consultation to assure themselves it is a possible cancer and then refer. However, the GP must inform the person that the appointment and treatment will have to be face to face and ensure they are still happy to be referred.

The NHS e-Referral Service (ERS)

2WW Suspected Cancer referrals continue as usual via the NHS e-Referral Service.

Breast Surgery

Alison Waterworth, surgeon at the Breast Surgery team at Calderdale and Huddersfield, would request that at this time it would be helpful to reduce the new referrals into one stop breast clinic.

Please do not refer **bilateral breast pain** or **patients under 25** unless you are particularly concerned. The team agree these patients are the most unlikely group to have a cancer diagnosed. Male patients should not be referred unless there is an extremely high suspicion of cancer and nipple discharge that is not uniductal and clear or blood stained.

2WW Fast Track Haematology Referral Assessment Service (RAS)

The 2WW Fast Track Haematology referral process has been simplified. From Monday 30th March, instead of selecting Defer to Provider (no appointment available), the referral will be sent straight for triage in the NHS e-Referral Service.

The referral form must still be attached or the triage cannot take place.



Send for Triage

Internal process at CHFT (No change)

The on call Haematology Consultant will review the referral and make a clinical decision where the patient should be seen. The patient will either be booked a Fast Track appointment within 2 weeks or be downgraded and the patient will be offered a routine Haematology appointment. Some patients might be redirected to the Vague Symptoms clinic if appropriate or to the Nurse led New patient clinic for low level paraproteins or uncomplicated lymphocytosis.

Support

If you require any support or guidance referring through e-Referral Service please contact Anna Lendon 07818 694747 or Christine Powell 07766905855.

If you have any queries about referring into a 2WW Fast Track appointment please contact the Fast Track Team on 01484 355394.

Advice to people being referred

CHFT are currently experiencing a number of patients who owing to concerns about Coronavirus do not want to physically attend for appointments and tests. We hope that moving to telephone triage where possible will alleviate this issue.

However, there are further concerns from people who have had their initial appointment and need further tests and are refusing to attend. CHFT will speak to the person to reassure them and encourage them to attend. Where the person continues to refuse CHFT will notify the practice for the practice to contact the person with regard to the urgency or not of the appointment and whether the person wishes to continue on the pathway or not.

If the person wishes to continue on the pathway CHFT will keep the referral and contact the person again to re-invite. If the person wishes to halt the pathway CHFT will keep the person's details to contact them at such time when COVID 19 is no longer causing pressure throughout the NHS. If the person wishes to be removed they will be referred back to the GP.