Understanding the Fast-Track Referral Scheme

**Why have I been referred?**
Based on your symptoms, your GP has decided that you need an urgent ‘fast-track’ referral to see a hospital specialist. It is important for you to be seen quickly in order to investigate your condition fully.

**Remember** that the signs or symptoms you have may be caused by a number of common conditions. Although these do include cancer, it does not mean that you have it.

**What will happen next?**
Your GP will now send the details of your symptoms to the hospital. Your referral will be carefully assessed (‘triaged’) to make sure that you are given the right sort of appointment. You should be offered an appointment within the next two weeks.

**What do I need to do?**
Please ensure that your GP surgery has your correct daytime telephone number (we are able to call mobile phones as well) so that the hospital is able to contact you. Do also please let your GP know if you are going to be away during the next two weeks. Sometimes, your GP may ask you to have some blood tests before your hospital appointment - please arrange these as soon as possible as the hospital need the results before they can triage your referral.

You can expect to receive a telephone call from booking staff at the hospital to arrange your appointment. It is helpful to tell anyone you live with that you are expecting such a call. Hospital staff will not be allowed to talk to anyone else about your appointment unless you have given us permission to do so, so your family will need to pass any calls from the hospital on to you.

You will also receive a letter about your appointment date and time, so don't worry if you are not at home to take the call.

Please make every effort to attend the appointment the hospital arranges with you. In the event that you are absolutely unable to attend please contact the hospital to make another appointment as soon as possible (the telephone number to call will be shown on your appointment letter). Please also inform your GP.

**What will happen at the hospital?**
The appointment will either be for an outpatient consultation or for a diagnostic test, whichever the specialist thinks is most appropriate in order to assess you in the safest and fastest way. If it is for a diagnostic test you will be sent details about what to expect and any preparation required, including if it would be sensible to bring someone with you.

When you see the specialist for the first time you may want to ask these questions:
- Will I need any tests? If I do, what tests will I need?
- Will I need to stay in hospital?
- Should someone come with me to the tests?
- When will I find out the results of the tests?
- Who will let me know the results?
- What will happen next?

**Further Information - Please contact your GP if you have any questions or concerns about what is happening.**