



Urology 2 week wait referral assessment service

A 2 week wait referral assessment service for urology will be available from Monday 3 June. Referral assessment services allow GPs to refer patients into secondary care services without having to book an appointment. The publication of this service will complete our roll out of two week wait referral assessment services.

This method of referral will allow us as the provider to decide on the most appropriate onward clinical pathway and our urgent referral team will then contact the patient within one working day to discuss choice and arrange an appointment. If appropriate, they may return the triage request to the original referrer with advice, if an onward referral is not needed at that time.

The service will appear on e-Referral with a service type of **triage service -**;

2WW Urology Assessment-Northumbria Healthcare FT RTF

We would ask all primary care referrers to use the referral assessment (send for triage) service from Monday 3 June. All Northumbria Healthcare directly bookable 2WW services for urology will be closed at 6pm on Friday 31 May so only the trust referral assessment service will be available from Monday 3 June.

We would ask that when making a decision to refer, GPs inform their patient that their clinical information will be reviewed and the patient will be contacted by a member of our urgent referrals team to arrange an appointment.

If you have any queries please contact Diane Williams, e-Referral lead - 0191 203 1253 / diane.williams@northumbria.nhs.uk.

Plain film x-rays



If you need to refer a patient for a plain film x-ray please request this on ICE for the following sites:

- Hexham, Wansbeck or North Tyneside general hospitals
- Alnwick Infirmary
- Berwick Infirmary
- Blyth Community Hospital
- Morpeth NHS Centre

Patients should not be referred to The Northumbria hospital for plain film x-rays.

Urine requesting on ICE

Thank you for all the positive feedback on the new ICE desktop, we have made further modifications in light of specific issues raised.

In line with protocols agreed with the first launch of ICE, all forms need to be completed electronically (unless ICE is down).

The lab has been unable to accept hand written requests with any samples for some time. To avoid the inconvenience to patients of a second sampling please ensure the request is completed electronically for each sample.

Clinical pharmacist joins the palliative care team in Northumberland



A Macmillan senior clinical pharmacist is now working as part of our palliative care team in the county, providing expert pharmacological support for complex symptom control and management.

Emma Foggett can visit patients in their own homes or in hospital, to manage complex symptoms and optimise medication to suit the needs of the patient, while discussing potential changes with the patient's GP. Referrals for Emma's service are only from within the Northumbria palliative care team at the current time. Emma also provides bespoke medication advice, support and training for staff within the palliative care team.

The aim is to provide an additional service within the palliative care team to support patients in hospital and at home.

If you have a query or if there is something that you would like to be included in future editions of this newsletter please email cara.charlton@northumbria.nhs.uk