

Northumbria Healthcare FT is going paperless for outpatient letters

From **Thursday 02 December 2021** onwards, Northumbria Healthcare FT will begin to turn off paper copies of outpatient letters. This move is long overdue, but will hopefully enable safer and higher quality patient care by reducing the time from when a letter is generated to becoming visible in the primary care system, in addition to reducing the scanning burden in your practice. You will receive only one electronic copy of the outpatient letter.

This is a move towards more sustainable practice, something Northumbria is fully behind and will massively reduce the amount of paper and envelopes we use as a trust.

Please note there will be a transition period where you will receive outpatient letters via post and electronically. We anticipate that as more specialities adopt the electronic option the number of posted letters will decrease and eventually stop. In circumstances where electronic transfer is not possible, the letter will continue to be posted to GP practices.

For any clinical queries please contact, Alistair Blair, Alistair.Blair@northumbria-healthcare.nhs.uk or for any digital services queries please contact Andrew Williams, Andrew.Williams@northumbria-healthcare.nhs.uk.