

GP Top Tips

1. It is vital to **explain to people** that they are being **referred urgently** for suspected cancer as many can get an unwelcome surprise if they don't know when the hospital calls. For some patients it may be appropriate to reassure that most people referred do not have cancer but it is important to find out quickly what is wrong.
2. Ensure that the patient knows that they need to be **available for an appointment in the next two weeks. Often an appointment will be offered within one week.**
3. Please ensure **contact details are up to date** so the patient can be contacted via telephone, email (where appropriate) and post.
4. Most urgent suspected cancer pathways follow tight protocols to investigate and diagnose patients within 28 days. Many of these pathways will offer straight-to-test investigations. Please ensure hospitals have full information at the outset about a patient's presenting complaint and their ability to undergo investigations safely, such as health status, renal function, and past medical and medication history.
5. If required, please ensure that each patient is given a Pan London [patient information leaflet](#) in the appropriate language. These can also be found via the link on the referral forms.
6. If the patient has **additional psychological or mobility needs** which may impact their appointment and tests, for example they have claustrophobia or morbid obesity needing particular considerations; please include this information on the referral form (with the patient's consent).
7. For suspected **children's cancer**, please discuss the patient with the local paediatrician on call before referral.