

If you have any planned holidays on the date of your clinic appointment, or are aware of anything that may prevent you from attending your appointment, then you must inform the Rapid Diagnostic Centre Cancer Care Coordinator without delay to ensure that future hospital appointments can be appropriately arranged.

If you cancel an arranged appointment or do not attend your appointment, we will do our best to ensure you are seen as soon as possible.

### Dianostic Testing

The following tests may, or may not, be undertaken as part the Rapid Diagnostic Centre investigations:-

**Blood tests** – further to those taken at your GP to help with diagnosis.

**Endoscopy** – a procedure where the inside of your body is examined using an instrument called an endoscope. An endoscope is a long, thin flexible tube that has a light source and a camera at one end. Images of inside of your body are relayed to a television screen. An endoscopy can be used to investigate unusual symptoms.

**CT scan** – Computerised tomography (CT) of the body is a diagnostic imaging test used to help detect disease of the body.

**COVID-19** – You will be asked COVID-19 screening questions prior to your appointment and may be offered testing prior to been seen in clinic.

**Strict social distancing and hand hygiene practices will be observed throughout.**

## Patient Experience

South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust would like your feedback. If you wish to share your experience about your care and treatment or on behalf of a patient, please contact The Patient Experience Department who will advise you on how best to do this.

This service is based at The James Cook University Hospital but also covers the Friarage Hospital In Northallerton, our community hospitals and community health services.

To ensure we meet your communication needs please inform the Patient Experience Department of any special requirements, i.e. Braille/ Large Print.

T: 01642 835964

E: [stees.patient.experience@nhs.net](mailto:stees.patient.experience@nhs.net)

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## Rapid Diagnostic Centre (RDC)

Important patient information about your appointment

Friarage Hospital  
Northallerton

## Why am I being urgently referred?

Your GP feels that you have symptoms that require further investigation by a hospital specialist team. This is so that your problem can be investigated and if needed, treated quickly and effectively.

The signs and symptoms you have may be caused by a number of common conditions but it could also be cancer so it is important for you to be seen quickly in order to fully investigate your symptoms.

Symptoms may include abdominal pain, unintentional weightloss, persistent fatigue or loss of appetite.

It is important to remember that even though you are being referred urgently, this does not necessarily mean that you have cancer.

An urgent referral means that you will be offered an appointment with a hospital specialist team as soon as possible after your GP appointment. There are usually clinics throughout the week and you will be offered a provisional appointment by your GP / nurse whilst in your consultation or at the practice. This will be confirmed by the hospital within 2 working days.

The Rapid Diagnostic Centre clinic is usually held in the Wensleydale Suite, Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

### Contact details

Rapid Diagnostic Centre  
Cancer Care Coordinator: 01609 763338  
Internal extension: 63338

## How do I make my appointment?

Prior to your hospital clinic appointment, your GP will already have performed a number of blood tests and urine sample tests. Your GP will have checked these bloods and urine tests for any obvious abnormality and will refer you for a hospital appointment.

Please note, this appointment will be at the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton. A provisional appointment will be arranged for you at your GP practice. This appointment will be confirmed within two working days by the Rapid Diagnostic Centre Cancer Care Coordinator.

Even if some of these tests are normal you may still be referred in to the RDC clinic. You would have been referred because you need to see a specialist or have some further investigations to help find out what is wrong with you.

### What will happen at my hospital appointment?

The clinician will take a full clinical history and examine you. Further blood tests may be performed. A CT scan of your body and/or an endoscopy may be required.

Where possible, the hospital will try to arrange your tests and your appointment on the same day. **It is therefore possible that you may be at the hospital for several hours for this to happen.**

The specialist teams often give people a lot of information during their appointment and therefore many people find it useful to bring a family member or friend with them. Due to COVID-19 and social distancing measures this will not be possible unless by strict prior arrangement.

You may find it useful to write down any questions you want to ask during your appointment.

The results arising from any investigations will be discussed with you and explained in detail.

If there is no identified cause for your symptoms you may be referred back to your GP. If you are diagnosed with cancer you will receive support and details of all information you may need and referred to the appropriate consultant.

### How do I get to hospital?

If you cannot use public transport, drive or arrange your own transport, you may be able to use the ambulance service. South Tees patients should contact the Transport Information Service on 0345 045 0160. County Durham, Darlington and York patients should contact their GP practice.

### What if I cannot make the appointment I am offered?

Your GP believes that your symptoms need to be investigated urgently so it is important that you are flexible when arranging this appointment and make every effort to attend the appointment you are given.

