



**PROSTATE
CANCER UK**

Using the Fast Track Referral tool

This tool will support your conversations with patients about their suspected prostate cancer referral, help them understand what happens next and explain where they can find further information and support if needed.

About the tool

This tool has been produced with primary and secondary care clinicians, patients, members of the public and West Yorkshire and Harrogate Cancer Alliance representatives at a co-production workshop. We have developed the referral tool in response to a survey which highlighted that patients felt they weren't getting enough information about their referral for possible prostate cancer and what would happen next for them.

How to use it

The tool has been designed to be used in conversation with your patient. It can be personalised to your patient by adding their name and date of appointment. We have also included a checklist of reasons why the patient is being referred to be completed by you where appropriate.

The tool is available as an editable PDF which you can download and save to your desktop or save as a template on your IT system. Please seek instructions from your provider on how to do this. Once completed the tool can be sent to patients remotely via email or through your digital system. Alternatively, a hard copy can be printed and handed to your patients or posted.

Please encourage your patients to visit the unique URL on the bottom of the tool for further information and support from Prostate Cancer UK.

Feedback

As this is a new tool, we want it to be as helpful as possible for you and your patients.

Please take a couple of minutes to [tell us your thoughts by emailing the team](#) who developed the referral tool if you have any feedback.

Features of the tool

The image below highlights the main features and benefits of using the tool.

Front

Your fast-track appointment for possible prostate cancer

Submit Form



Personalised

Name: _____ Date: _____

You have been referred to hospital because it's possible you have prostate cancer. Most men who are referred in this way will NOT have prostate cancer. Some prostate cancers may never need treatment, but some do need treating straight away. It's important to attend any appointments offered, so that you can find out if you have prostate cancer that needs treatment. If you do have prostate cancer, the hospital will make sure you get the treatment or monitoring you need.

Clear information

Why will the hospital contact me?

Your GP is referring you to the hospital's urology team, who specialise in problems with the urinary and reproductive systems, because: (GP to select, as appropriate)

- Your PSA level is _____ which is higher than your GP thinks it should be.
You have had a digital rectal examination (DRE) and your prostate feels hard or lumpy.
You have an increased risk of prostate cancer because of either:
your ethnicity
a family history of prostate or breast cancer.
You have symptoms that might be a sign of a prostate problem.
Other: _____

Easy-to-use checklist

You will need to be able to go to appointments over the next four weeks. If you're not going to be available, for example if you're going on holiday, tell your GP. They may decide to refer you at a later date. However, it's best to avoid delays in case you do have a problem that needs treating.



Visual aids

Remember - hospital car parks are often busy, so leave extra time to park if you're driving.



West Yorkshire and Harrogate Cancer Alliance



Back

What will happen now?

The hospital aims to tell you whether or not you have prostate cancer within 28 days (4 weeks).

1 Hospital contact you

- This will be either:
a letter to arrange an appointment with the hospital's urology team
a phone call from a specialist, so they can get more information from you.
If you don't hear anything within 7 days, call their patient booking service (see below).

Black & white for quick printing

If you have a phone call with a specialist, they may decide you don't need an appointment, for example if you have symptoms that are caused by a urine infection. If you no longer need an appointment, you won't need to follow the rest of the stages on this page.

2 Hospital appointment

You'll usually see a urologist or a clinical nurse specialist. They may ask you about any symptoms, do a physical exam, and explain what will happen next.

3 Prostate MRI scan

This will show any areas of the prostate that might contain cancer.

Pathway steps

4 Discuss MRI scan results and, if needed, do a biopsy

If your scans show anything unusual, the specialist will usually recommend doing a prostate biopsy. This is where small pieces of tissue are taken from the prostate and looked at under a microscope to check for cancer.

5 By day 28: Appointment to discuss biopsy results and next steps

You'll find out if you have prostate cancer at this appointment, so try to bring a relative or friend. The urology team will have already discussed your results. If you have prostate cancer, a doctor or specialist nurse will explain your options and help you decide what to do next.

Any questions?

For questions about appointments, call the hospital's patient booking service. You can find the number in your appointment letter, online or in the phone book.

If you're diagnosed with prostate cancer, you'll get details of a specialist nurse to contact if you have any questions. You can also contact Prostate Cancer UK's Specialist Nurses, in confidence, on 0800 074 8383, or online at prostatecanceruk.org/referral. The website has more information on tests, treatments and support, and a form to share any feedback about this information sheet.

Signpost to information & support