

You have been referred to see a Specialist

This leaflet could save you and your GP time –

It provides guidance on what to expect when you are referred by your GP to see a Specialist (or therapist).

Please read this information carefully – it may save you an unnecessary trip to the surgery by talking this process through with **your specialist**.



Hospital Tests & Investigations

All tests and investigations required by the specialists must be ordered by them and the appointments sent to you.

If the specialist requires blood tests he/she should give you a request form which you can take to whoever normally provides blood tests in your area. This varies and may be your surgery, hospital or community clinic. The specialist is responsible for acting upon the results of any test he/she requests and for informing you of the results.

If you haven't heard from the specialist about a test result please ring his or her secretary at the hospital. Unfortunately your surgery may not know the result and will not know what the specialist intended to do with the information.

Hospital Prescriptions

Your consultant may prescribe you medication in some circumstances;

- if the treatment is required immediately;
- or if it is a hospital only drug;
- or the consultant is required to closely monitor the drug.

In all other situations, they should issue you with a referral form which you will need to take to your GP surgery. A referral letter should follow within a few days.

If you are uncertain about what medication is being recommended or prescribed for you, please ask the specialist to explain it to you at your appointment

Sick or Fit Note (Med3) After Hospital Attendance

If you need to be certified as unfit for work as a result of the treatment provided by your specialist (or therapist) he or she should issue a sick note when you are discharged from hospital or seen in the clinic. Please ask for one if you need it.

Follow Up Appointments

If you need to be seen again the hospital will provide you with another appointment. For North Cumbria University Hospitals – please telephone the contact centre on 0344 7760003 to arrange.

In summary, the specialists are responsible for:

- Looking after all your tests
- Providing prescriptions when appropriate
- Issuing a sick note if required
- Providing you with a follow up appointment if necessary.