

Non-Site Specific Symptoms of Concern

Doncaster and Bassetlaw
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

A rapid diagnostic pathway for patients with non-specific symptoms of concern.

Introduction

Your GP has invited you to be investigated on a Non-site specific (NSS) pathway. This leaflet is designed to help you to understand why the pathway is in place and what it will involve.

NSS is part of a national programme to find the quickest, most efficient way to reach a diagnosis in patients who have non-specific symptoms.

This leaflet is designed to tell you more about the purpose of the NSS pathway, and what will happen over the next 2 weeks when you get referred by your GP. For a rapid diagnosis it is important that you make yourself available for all appointments.

Please take time to read the following information carefully. Should you require any further information, please speak to your GP.

Contact details for the Hospital team are displayed on the back of this leaflet.

Why you've been referred

Your GP has found you have one or more non-specific symptoms. These symptoms are called "non-specific" as they affect the whole person.

Symptoms can include:

- Unexplained weight loss - More than 5% recent unexplained and proven weight loss which has not previously been investigated and with no likely diagnosis.
- Loss of appetite.
- Tiredness.



- Nausea/feeling sick.
- Suspicious but non-specific abdominal symptoms.
- Recurrent abdominal pain which has resulted in at least two visits to A&E or your GP in a month, that has not previously been investigated and without a likely diagnosis.

There is a very low risk these non-specific symptoms are caused by a serious disease such as cancer.

However, for some patients early tests can help doctors diagnose conditions quicker and start treatment sooner.

Your GP will refer you to the hospital for tests.

Patients who are referred **may need:**

- Blood tests.
- Diagnostic scans such as CXR, CT or MRI scans.
- A poo test, if not already done by your GP.

An appointment with a specialist will be made if needed. This will depend on your test results.

What happens after your GP appointment?

Your GP will book an **x-ray/ scan**.

This will be within **2 weeks** of your GP's contact with us.

It is ***very important*** to make sure you are available to attend hospital for xray/scans.

Sometimes a letter will include instructions to follow before you come to the hospital – please read these carefully.

Please tell us if you need any help or support.

SUMMARY OF NSS PATHWAY	
When you see your GP	<p>Your GP will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Make a referral to the NSS pathway.</i> • <i>Give you this information leaflet and arrange for you to have some blood tests.</i> • <i>Give you a poo sample pack to be returned to them if required.</i> • <i>Arrange further scans as required.</i>
Appointments at the hospital:	<p>Depending on your tests, your GP will most likely complete one of the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Request further tests if required to make a diagnosis, or</i> • <i>Refer you to a specialist clinic at one of the hospital sites.</i>

Follow-up after a Hospital appointment

Your follow-up care will be decided by the Hospital team based on your clinical information and test results.

You may require more tests if further information is needed, or a referral to a specialist who will assess you in person. This could be a cancer referral or a referral for another medical condition if this is more likely.

If the results from tests do not indicate that further hospital tests or treatment are needed, the NSS team will write to your GP.

Patient experience feedback of the NSS Pathway

We may ask you to complete a questionnaire about your experiences of the NSS Pathway to help with planning of future services for patients.

If you are asked to attend any appointment at the hospital we are happy for you to bring someone with you. This is often helpful when new information is being discussed and also if further tests need arranging.

Useful telephone number:

Doncaster NSS team number: 01302 648174

This number can be contacted from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

These websites or apps give you more information.

www.dbth.nhs.uk/cancer-care-app

www.nhs.uk/conditions/cancer

www.cancerresearchuk.org/cancer-symptoms/what-is-an-urgent-referral

Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS)

The team are available to help with any concerns, complaints or questions you may have about your experience at the Trust. Their office is in the Main Foyer (Gate 4) of Doncaster Royal Infirmary. Contact can be made either in person, by telephone or email.

The contact details are:

Telephone: 01302 642764 or 0800 028 8059

Email: dbth.pals.dbh@nhs.net