

At your outpatient appointment, the respiratory consultant will discuss with you the results of your CXR and CT scan and any outcome from the MDT meeting if appropriate.

You will be asked to perform breathing tests during the consultation and your doctor will examine your chest.

Please note - we require patients to have at least one fingernail clear of nail polish in order to measure your oxygen level.

Following this assessment, the consultant will discuss the next steps with you.

The consultant will often have a lung nurse specialist with them during your appointment.

Enquiries

If you have any questions, please contact our two week wait booking team on Tel: 020 7288 3542 or 020 7288 3736.

Further Information

Visit the Macmillan information centre (main entrance of The Whittington Hospital).

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a compliment, complaint or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or

whh-tr.whitthealthPALS@nhs.net

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please contact us on 020 7288 3182. We will try our best to meet your needs.

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The respiratory medicine two-week wait service

A patient's guide



Introduction

Your GP has referred you to the respiratory service as your symptoms are concerning or your recent chest x-ray and/or CT scan have shown an abnormality that requires further investigation.

Urgent appointment

You have been given an urgent appointment so the cause of your symptoms can be investigated without delay. If symptoms suggest a patient may have cancer, a GP is able to refer to us for an urgent appointment with a specialist within two weeks.

Does this mean I have cancer?

The vast majority of patients referred to us do not have cancer. However, it is important that we investigate in case you have a condition that needs urgent treatment. If you are worried about your appointment, please contact your GP.

What happens now?

You will be booked an appointment for a CT scan or if you have had one already, an appointment with a respiratory consultant.

The CT scan will provide detailed images of your chest including your lungs.

This will help determine the cause of your symptoms and any abnormalities shown on your chest x-ray and enable our clinicians to be more specific about the cause of the abnormality.

It is, therefore, necessary to have the scan before your outpatient appointment.

Before the CT scan

The scan requires you to have an injection which enhances your internal organs under x-ray and gives us clear pictures.

We can only give you the injection if your kidneys are working normally. To confirm this, we need a blood test result from the last six months. If we do not have a recent blood result for you, we will ask you to attend our clinic to have a blood test.

Where can I have the blood test?

Before your CT appointment, please attend our respiratory clinic (3A) on level three at The Whittington Hospital from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, to have your blood test. When you arrive, please inform the receptionist that you require a blood test before your CT scan.

If you are unable to attend our clinic, you may be able to have the blood test at your local GP practice.

In order to do so, you will need to ask your GP practice if they process blood results through The Whittington Hospital. If they do, please contact us and ask to have your blood test request form posted to you so you can take it to your GP practice.

Can I have the blood test on the same day as the CT scan?

In exceptional circumstances and only by arranging with us in advance, you may be able to attend for your blood test on the day of your CT scan, but you will need to arrive at the hospital at least two hours before your scan, so your blood results can be processed.

CT scan

Please see the enclosed CT scan information leaflet which explains what you need to do to prepare for the scan and what happens during and afterwards.

Appointment with your consultant

Following your CT scan and before your outpatient appointment, your case may be discussed at a respiratory multi-disciplinary team (MDT) meeting.

This meeting involves a group of health professionals with expertise in this specific area, who together discuss the best treatment for patients.