

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.

Twitter.com/WhitHealth
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Whittington Health NHS Trust
Magdala Avenue
London
N19 5NF
Phone: 020 7272 3070
www.whittington.nhs.uk

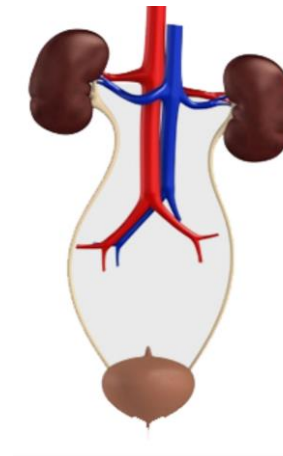
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Prostate pathway information

A patient's guide



Introduction

Your GP has referred you to a specialist because your symptoms need further tests. It is important that you have these tests quickly so we can diagnose you and start treatment (if needed) as soon as possible.

There are many common conditions that these symptoms could be linked to, including the possibility of cancer.

However most patients referred for further tests do not have cancer.

Prostate pathway diagram

The appointments and tests you need to have to examine your symptoms are described as a **pathway**.

This diagram shows the order of the appointments from referral to treatment.

Most people will not need all of these tests.

If cancer is ruled out early in the pathway, you will not need the rest of the tests.

What you need to do

- Please be available for the next two months for appointments
- If you cannot attend an appointment or are planning to go away, please discuss this with your GP practice or hospital doctor or nurse as soon as possible.
- If you have an emergency and cannot keep your appointment, please inform the centralised booking team by calling the number which is on your letter. You will then need to arrange another appointment.
- We suggest that you bring a friend or family member to appointments if you can.
- Please bring a list of your current medications.
- If an interpreter is required, please let the hospital know in advance.

There are national requirements for hospitals to provide a rapid service for this pathway. This is to ensure that those patients who need treatment can start it as soon as possible. It is therefore very important that you attend all the appointments we offer you. **If you have any questions at any point, you can contact us Monday - Wednesday, 9am-5pm on 0207 288 5221.**

Glossary

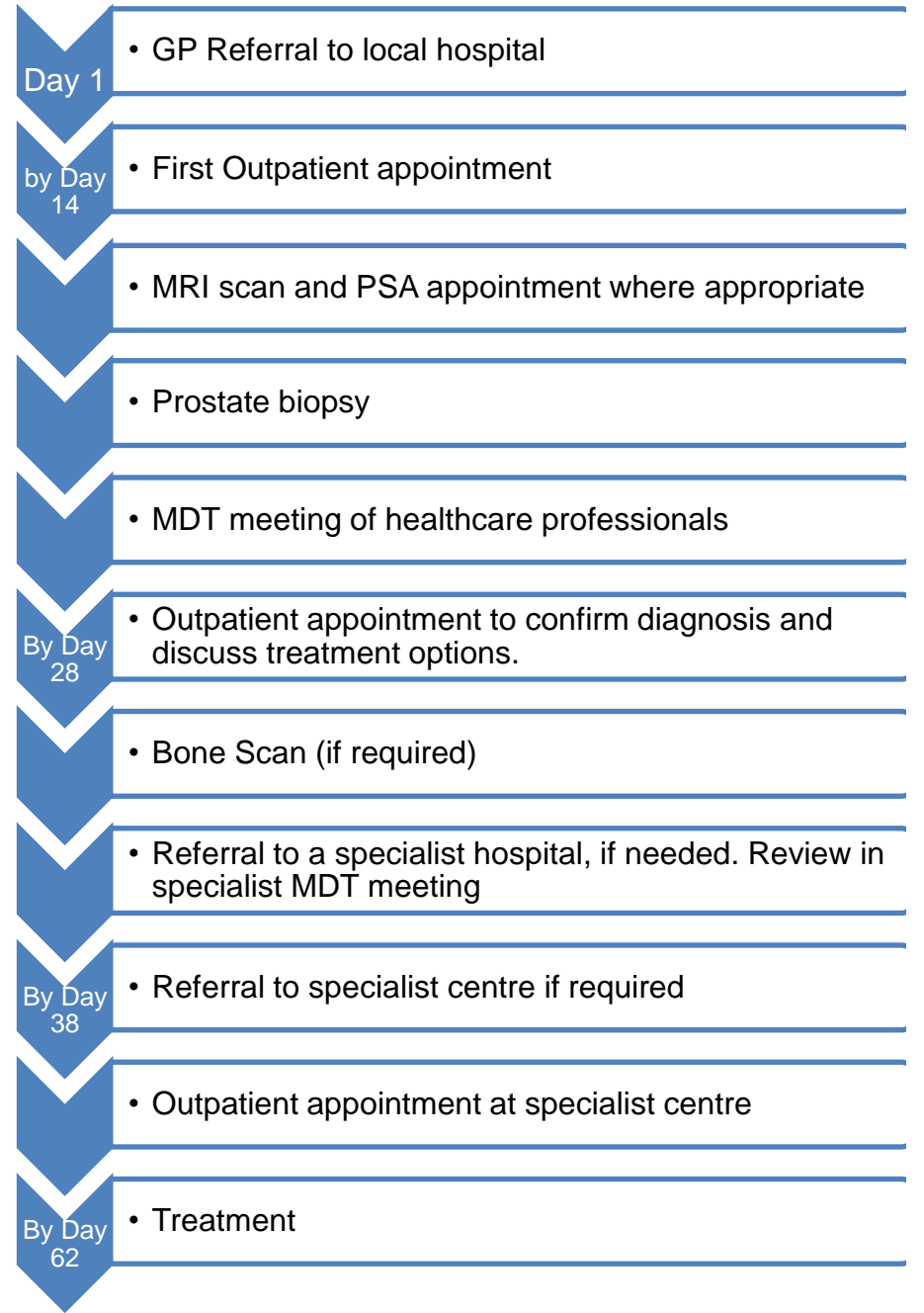
MRI scan An MRI scan uses a combination of a powerful magnet and radio waves to scan your body and it will provide us with detailed images of your prostate gland.

Prostate biopsy A prostate biopsy involves passing a small needle into the prostate gland several times to obtain samples for analysis. The needle might be passed into the prostate gland through the rectum (or back passage) or through the perineum (skin between the anus and scrotum).

Bone scan A bone scan is an imaging test. It safely uses a very small amount of radioactive dye to help diagnose problems with your bones.

MDT (Multi-disciplinary Team) An MDT meeting is a meeting of the group of professionals who together make decisions regarding recommended treatment of individual patients. This includes professionals such as consultant oncologists, surgeons, specialist nurses and imaging specialists.
You do not need to attend this meeting.

Specialist centre Some hospitals provide specialist treatment for patients with prostate cancer. You may be referred to one of these hospitals if this is the best place for your treatment.



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