

What is a Rapid Diagnostic Clinic?

A rapid diagnostic clinic is a way of diagnosing the cause of your symptoms quickly by performing a number of tests in a short time-frame.

Why have I been referred?

Being referred in this way means that you will receive faster help. This is because the symptoms you have could be related to a major illness, including the possibility of cancer.

There is evidence that an early diagnosis can increase the chances of successful treatment of cancer and other serious illness.

Does this referral mean I have cancer?

No. Not everyone who comes to the clinic is diagnosed with cancer. Around 10% of patients seen in these clinics find out if they have cancer.



For other people, the tests may show a different condition. The clinic staff are then able to offer you advice or refer you to a different service.

What happens now?

You will be contacted by a member of the rapid diagnostic team to arrange an appointment for you to speak to one of our specialist nurses. The nurse will ask you a number of questions which will help decide how best to carry out your investigations. They will also explain the next steps in your care and support you at your appointment.

What test will I have?

A number of tests will be taken in order to provide your clinic doctor with enough information to make a diagnosis.

This will include a range of blood tests, a FIT (Faecal Immunochemical Test) which is an investigation that is looking for the presence of blood in the stools (poo), a physical examination and a scan- (also known as a CT or CAT scan).



Your results will be looked at by a team of specialists and the results will be explained to you when you are seen by the clinic doctor.

What do I need to do now?

We will try to see you at the clinic as soon as possible. Before your appointment, it is really important that **you** do the following things:

- Confirm your correct contact number with your GP.
- Complete and return the FIT test as soon as possible.
- Attend your GP surgery for a blood test as soon as possible.
- Be ready to receive a call from our booking team in the coming week.
- Be ready and available to attend the hospital at short notice.
- Let the hospital know immediately if you are unable to make an appointment on 01633 238 008

Where will the appointment be?

The appointment will be at: St Joseph's Hospital, Harding Ave, Newport, NP20 6ZE

To talk to someone about your referral, please contact 01633 238 008