

Rapid Diagnostic Clinic Referral Information Guide

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 may receive further investigations in a timely manner. 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 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 Clinic Team to arrange an appointment for you to come into clinic and you may speak to one of our Clinical nurse specialists.

What test will I have?

If required a number of tests will be taken in order to provide your clinician with enough information to make a diagnosis.

These **may** 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.



A team of specialists will review your case, this will be discussed with you when you are seen by the clinician. You may need to wait some time please bring with you any refreshments that you may need and your current medication.

If you require patient transport, please contact 0300 123 2303 at least 48 hours prior to your appointment and no more than 2 weeks in advance. Unfortunately, we are unable to facilitate the transport of companions. If you are concerned with this please speak to a member of our team. However, companions are welcome and encouraged to attend the clinic with you if you are providing your own transport.

What do I need to do now?

It is really important that **you** do the following things:

- Confirm your correct contact number with your GP.
- If requested complete and return the FIT test provided by your referring GP as soon as possible.

Attend your GP surgery to provide a blood sample as soon as possible.

Be ready to receive a call from the RDC team.

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 01873 732316

Where will the appointment be?

The appointment will be at The Royal Gwent Hospital Main Outpatient Department. To talk to someone about your referral, please contact 01873 732316. If you have concerns about this referral or if you haven't received a telephone call within 72 hours, please do not hesitate to contact us as members of the team are always ready to help.