

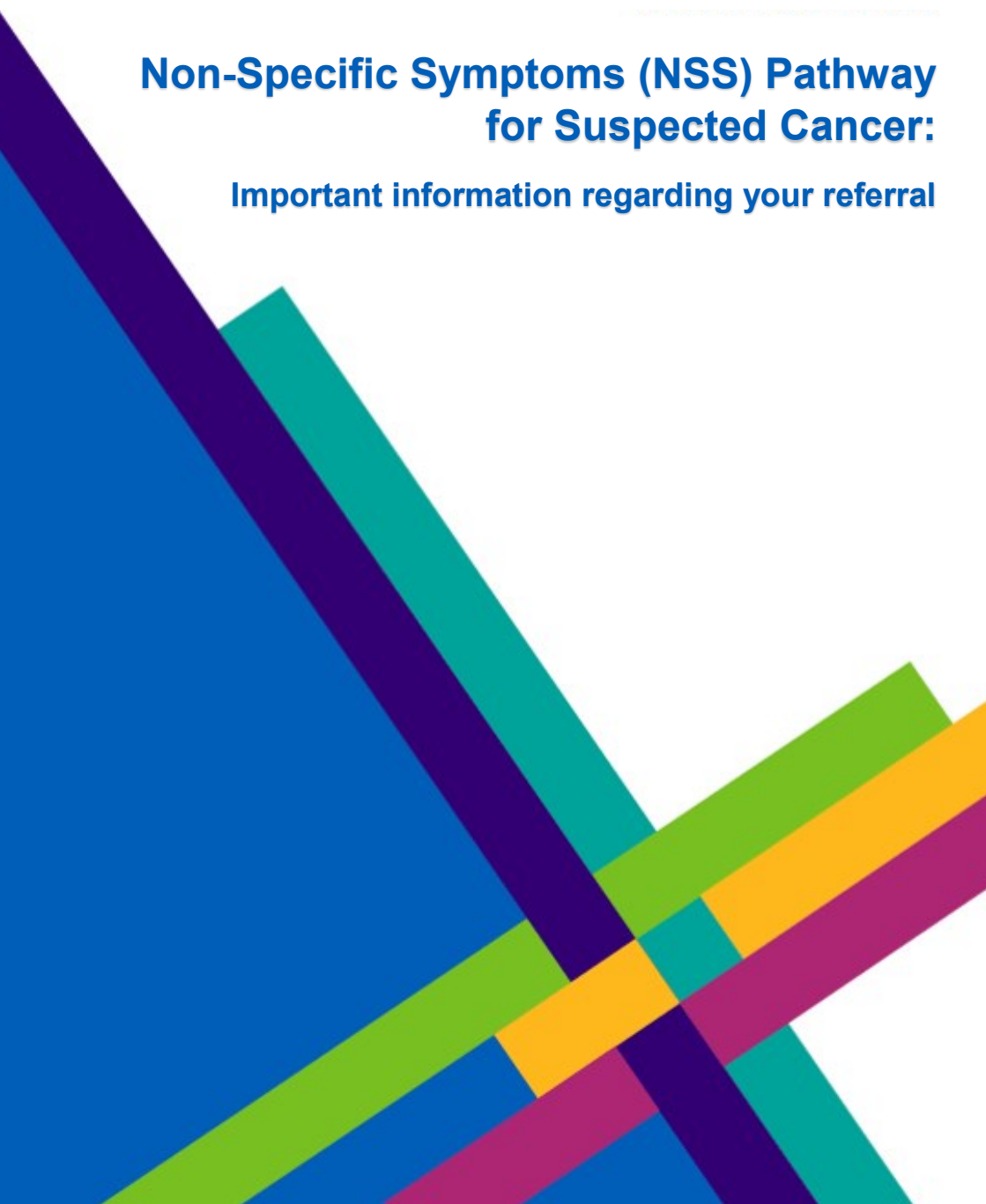


Salisbury

NHS Foundation Trust

Non-Specific Symptoms (NSS) Pathway for Suspected Cancer:

Important information regarding your referral



You have been referred to our non-specific symptoms (NSS) pathway as you are experiencing symptoms that your GP believes should be investigated quickly.

We are one of the many cancer pathways, most of which are for people with a specific set of symptoms or problems. Our pathway was developed for people with vague, less specific symptoms which can in some cases be indicative of cancer. The NSS team aim to work quickly to either diagnose or rule out cancer as a cause for your symptoms as finding cancer early makes treatment more successful. Reassuringly, 95% of people referred to our service do not have cancer.

The NSS team is made up of a number of experienced senior clinicians and a patient pathway navigator, who will be your main point of contact. The service is remote and most of your contact with the service will be through telephone calls. We can facilitate video calls and arrange for additional support to help you to access the service if required.

- Shortly after receiving the referral from your GP referral our pathway navigator will make contact with you.
- During this welcome call we will explain the purpose of the service and book a telephone consultation with a clinician in the near future.
- Prior to referral your GP will have performed a number of blood, urine and stool tests. It is important that you complete all tests requested of you to ensure your referral can be processed efficiently and effectively on the NSS Pathway.
- At the agreed time an NSS clinician will contact you to complete your telephone consultation. They will ask you about your symptoms, your past medical history and medications. They may access your hospital and GP records to ensure they have all the correct and relevant information required.
- At the end of the consultation the clinician will discuss which tests/

investigations are most appropriate for you.

- In some cases further investigation may be judged unnecessary, this decision will only be taken after discussion with you and the wider NSS team.
- Investigations/ scans will take place at Salisbury Hospital as an outpatient within two weeks of your NSS consultation.
- The NSS team will review the results of your tests and determine if there is any evidence of cancer.
- You will be contacted by telephone regarding your results as soon as possible. This telephone call will be followed up with a paper document called a discharge summary which is sent to yourself and your GP.

If the team do not find a cancer, they will telephone you to let you know and to discuss any incidental findings, providing advice about possible next steps and referring you back to your GP with recommendations.

If the team do find a cancer, or an area on the scan needs further clarification, they will refer you to the appropriate specialist team immediately. You will be informed of any onward referral by telephone.

The team aims to share your results within 28 days of receiving your initial referral.

A patient navigator will support you whilst you are under the care of the service, and you can contact them on 07443 138 100 (Monday to Friday 8am – 4pm).

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www.salisbury.nhs.uk/wards-departments/departments/cancer-services/introduction/