



## **YOU HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO SEE A SPECIALIST**

This leaflet provides guidance on what to expect when you are referred by your GP to see a specialist (or therapist). Please read this information carefully - it may save you an unnecessary trip to the surgery by discussing any queries you may have with the specialist.

### **Tests & Investigations**

All tests and investigations required by the specialists must be ordered by them and the appointments sent to you.

If the specialist requires blood tests s/he should give you a request form and advise you whereabouts in the hospital you can take this to for the test to be done.

The specialist is responsible for acting upon the results of any tests s/he requests and for informing you of the results.

If you have not heard from the specialist about a test result, please ring his/her secretary at the hospital. Unfortunately, your surgery may not know the result and will not know what the specialist intends to do with the information.

### **Prescriptions**

If the specialist prescribes new medication, or changes any of the medication you are currently on, please ask him/her to provide you with the first prescription. This may be on a white prescription that can be used in the hospital pharmacy, or on a green one that you can take to your normal pharmacy.

Upon notification from the specialist your surgery may automatically make the necessary change to your list of repeat medication on the computer. You will then be able to order further supplies of medication without an appointment. You may need to telephone your surgery to confirm this or use the on-line service (EMIS Access) if you have registered for it.

If you are uncertain what changes the specialist has made please ask him/her to explain them to you at the appointment; this will save you having to see your GP to discuss something which s/he may only be aware of from a brief discharge letter.

### **Sick or Fit Note (Med3)**

If you need to be certified as unfit for work as a result of the treatment provided by your specialist (or therapist) s/he should issue a sick note (now known as a fit note) when you are discharged from hospital or seen in the clinic; please ask for one if you need it. Your GP may not be able to provide this because s/he may not have all the necessary information.

### **Follow Up Appointments**

If you need to be seen again the hospital will provide you with another appointment. Please contact the specialist's secretary (and not your GP) if you do not receive this within a reasonable timescale.

### **In summary, the Specialists are responsible for:**

- **Looking after all your tests;**
- **Providing prescriptions when needed;**
- **Issuing a sick note (or fit note) if required;**
- **Providing you with a follow up appointment if necessary.**