**Patient Information: Urgent Referral to Rapid Diagnostic Service (RDS+)**

**Why have I been referred for urgent tests at the Peterborough City Hospital?** Your doctor/dentist feels that you have symptoms that may be caused by cancer. It is really important that you are assessed and/or have diagnostic tests as soon as possible. This is so that your symptoms can be diagnosed and treated quickly and effectively.

**Remember:** A referral does not mean you have cancer. The symptoms you have could be caused by a number of common conditions. More than 9 out of 10 people referred in this way are not diagnosed with cancer.

**What happens now?**

* Make sure that your doctor/dentist has your most up to date contact details.
* Your situation will be assessed by the RDS+ specialist team before any contact is made.
* Your appointment date/time will either be given to you by your clinician, or you will be called directly by the RDS+ team. (Please note that the hospital contact may appear on your phone as an unknown caller, or with no caller information).
* If you have not been contacted within 3 days of your original appointment with your doctor/dentist, please call the RDS+ team on the telephone number below.
* Your first hospital appointment may include several tests, so you could be at the hospital for a while. You may need to attend for several appointments over a 2-4-week period.
* The RDS+ specialist team will go through your medical history. You can ask any questions, and get the information and support you may need at this worrying time.
* These appointments are important so you should do all you can to ensure that you are available and can take the appointments offered. If you are unable to attend, please call the RDS+ team immediately to arrange another appointment.
* Once your tests are completed, the RDS+ specialist team will contact you with the results and explain the next steps. This may be ‘face to face’ or by telephone. The hospital may also arrange a ‘video’ call if you would like a family member, friend or carer to be included.
* You will then be referred on to an appropriate specialist team for further investigation or treatment, if there is a possibility of cancer or another serious condition. If you do not need to be seen by a specialist, you will be referred back to your GP for ongoing care.
* You should get your plan of care from the RDS+ team within 28 days of your doctor/dentist referring you.

**Rapid Diagnostic Service (RDS+) Specialist Team: Tel ………………………………………………………………..**

 **Email: …………………………………………………………………………………………………..**

COVID-19. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the hospital may be restricting the number of visitors and it may not always be possible to bring someone with you. Please check when you book your appointment. However, if you are not able to attend alone, please remember that only one person should accompany you.

When you come to the hospital please:-

* Wear a face covering (please supply your own) when you come to our hospitals to visit or for an outpatient appointment. Make sure you observe social distancing at all times and wash/sanitise your hands.
* Please do not linger in shops or communal areas.

Your safety and the safety of NHS staff is very important. If you develop symptoms of COVID-19 including fever, new persistent cough and/or loss or change of sense of smell whilst awaiting your appointment, or if you need to self-isolate because a family member is unwell, please contact the RDS+ team to let them know.

Do not go to the hospital or your appointment without speaking to them first.