

# Referred to a specialist What next?

Patient guide on what to expect when referred by your GP to see a specialist or therapist

## Tests and investigations



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

■ If the specialist requires blood tests they should give you a request form which you can take to whoever normally provides

blood tests in your area. This varies and may be your surgery, hospital or community clinic.

■ The specialist is responsible for acting on the results of any test they request and informing you of the results.

■ If you haven't heard from the specialist about a test result, please ring their secretary at the hospital. Your surgery may not know the result and will not know what the specialist intended to do with the information.

## Follow-up appointments



**If you need to be seen again the hospital will provide you with another appointment. Please ask the specialist's secretary if it does not arrive in a timely way.**

**In summary, the specialists are responsible for:**

- Looking after all your tests
- Providing prescriptions when needed
- Issuing a sick note if required
- Providing you with a follow up appointment if necessary.

## Sick/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) he or she should issue a sick note when you are discharged from hospital or seen in the clinic. Please ask for one if you need it.**



## Prescriptions

■ If the specialist prescribes a new medication or changes one you are on, please ask them 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.

■ When notified by the specialist your surgery may automatically add the medication change to your repeat list on the computer. You will then be able to order re-supply without an appointment. You may need to phone your surgery to confirm or use online services if you have registered for them.

■ If you are uncertain what changes the specialist is making please ask them to explain it. It saves you having to see your GP to discuss something he or she may only know of from a short letter of explanation.