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

# **Advice and Guidance for Patients on what to expect**

## Your first appointment

Referral letters are sent in electronically to the appointments department at the hospital you have been referred to. All appointments are arranged by the hospital. You can find out more about when your appointment is going to be by calling the outpatient appointments department.

## Tests & Investigations

All tests and investigations required by your specialist must be arranged by them. They will get the results and they are responsible for acting upon the results and for informing you. If you haven’t heard from the specialist about a test result, please ring their secretary at the hospital. Although your GP may be able to access reports, they will not know how the specialist will use this information to plan your care.

**SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

* **Is this test, treatment or procedure really needed?**
* **What are the benefits and what are the downsides?**
* **What are the possible side-effects?**
* **Are there simpler or safer options?**
* **What would happen if I did nothing?**

## Prescriptions

If the specialist prescribes a new medication or changes one that you are on, they should include details of this in the letter they write to your GP. If you don’t understand what the changes are for, please ask the specialist to explain this while you are in the clinic.

## Sick or Fit Note (Med3)

Please ask your specialist for a sick line if you need one.

## Follow Up Appointments and Escorts

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

**The specialist’s secretary is the first port of call for queries about your appointments and follow-up.**