



19 August 2024

Dear Colleagues

WHC/2024/007 - Guidelines for managing patients on the suspected cancer pathway

I would like to draw your attention to the attached updated Welsh Health Circular (WHC) regarding the Management of Patients on the Suspected Cancer Pathway (SCP).

As we all know, timely access to care for patients with suspected cancer is central to improved outcomes, and this updated WHC contains important information to achieve these aims.

The waiting time for patients on the SCP starts at the point at which cancer is suspected and ends at the start of first definitive treatment, with a performance target of at least 75% of patients starting their first definitive treatment within 62 days of the point of suspicion.

There are a number of principles that underpin the waiting times rules and apply to the cancer target, with the key principle being that patients should be managed with the aim of starting treatment at the earliest clinically appropriate time.

As primary eye care clinicians, optometrists and dispensing opticians will likely be the first point of contact for patients with suspect eye cancers, although this could extend to other suspect cancers also.

I would, therefore, encourage all clinicians and support staff providing Primary Eye Care Services in Wales, to take the time to read through the update WHC with particular attention to clinical responsibilities, pathway start and referrals.

Should you have any questions about your local health board pathways or referral routes please do not hesitate to contact your local optometric adviser or your local health board primary care team.

Yours sincerely

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.



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Cc:

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