



**University Hospitals of
Derby and Burton**
NHS Foundation Trust

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Dear Colleague,

We write to you with a brief update on our plan to restore imaging services across UHDB. We have been providing Urgent and Cancer imaging during the pandemic, but are now in a position to start imaging less urgent patients, in all modalities and all specialties.

We have now ceased deferring any imaging referral. There are however about 10 000 pts whose imaging studies have been deferred in recent months. If one of your patients has been delayed and you think it is clinically indicated to prioritise their imaging or if further deferral is necessary, especially if they are vulnerable to infection, then please notify us by emailing Uhdb.imagingrestoration@nhs.net (which is managed by our admin staff), otherwise we will start booking these patients according to their urgency code and chronological order.

For **new** patients we will ask referrers to use the usual priority codes on paper requests ie routine or urgent. **In the restoration phase if the 'routine' priority code is used this will be booked within 12 weeks. For colleagues requesting on paper we have introduced a '?cancer' referral within 1 week and a 'semi urgent' referral within 6 weeks but these booking instructions needs to be included in the clinical information.** We will offer patients the first available appointments within these time frames. Please note that ALL paper requests irrespective of the urgency **now need to be emailed** through to facilitate booking. The email addresses to be used should be familiar to you – for Royal Derby Hospital this is uhdb.derbyimagingurgentreferrals@nhs.net (please use this even if the referral is not urgent) and for Queens Hospital Burton admin.radiology@nhs.net . *Please do not give the paper request to the patient to organise the appointment as we can no longer offer a 'walk in' service .*

Please continue to use the Anglia ICE system for electronic referrals if you have access to this system using the 'cancer', 'urgent' and 'routine' referral codes. As above '?cancer' requests will be booked within 1 week , 'urgent' requests within 2 within weeks and 'routine' within 12 weeks. A *'semi urgent' referral (within 6 weeks) can be made but this instruction needs to be included in the clinical information.*

The 'routine' deferred patients will be booked in chronological order and will be imaged ahead of new 'routine' referrals. Hence the need to stagger the new referrals into 1 week, 2 week, 6 week or 12 week waits. This allows us capacity to book our large group of deferred patients and at the same time image any urgent patients in a timely manner.

Where a patient declines a semi-urgent or routine appointment we will book another appointment in 2 months and inform the referrer - should the patient decline this second appointment we will refer the patient back to the referrer. If a patient declines an urgent 1 or 2 week wait appointment then the referrer will be contacted by our admin staff for further instruction.

We anticipate capacity across all key modalities (CT, MRI, U/S) will be a significant challenge over coming months given the adaptations necessary to adhere to social distancing. Safe patient scheduling will be facilitated by electronic referrals and we can no longer offer a 'walk in' imaging service. We anticipate that we are likely to have about 60 % of our normal capacity throughout June/July. We are working to source additional capacity to help meet demand over the coming months.

We will continue to monitor and optimise the diagnostic service for the benefit of all our patients. If you have any concerns or suggestions, then please get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

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Clinical Director Imaging

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