

GP Direct Access for Acute / Urgent Plain Film Imaging at Grantham Hospital (UTC X-ray room)

Acute / Urgent GP Referrals for Plain Film X-rays

To comply with the required social distancing during COVID 19, we have taken the decision to temporarily suspend direct access / walk in service for plain film imaging.

All GP x-ray imaging attendances will now be appointment based, and further communications will follow in the next 2 weeks regarding how that process will be rolled out across ULHT for all routine GP referrals for Xray.

Radiology will vet and appoint the requests; rejected requests will be returned with feedback or converted to the most appropriate imaging modality.

Turnaround times

Acute / Urgent: Same Day / 1-2 weeks
Routine: Within 3-6 weeks (as per previous DM01 guidelines)

Acute and Urgent GP Referrals

For acute / urgent GP referrals, we can offer up to 20 Xray appointments per day (7 days a week) in the UTC Xray room at Grantham Hospital. This will be for acute trauma / Osteomyelitis / Cancer 2WW (see below) whereby colleagues can refer patients to the radiology department the same day between the hours 0800 - 1900 Monday-Sunday, or arrange an appointment within 1 -2 weeks.

All referrers are asked to send imaging requests electronically for plain film via

ULH.xray@nhs.net.

This email address will become the future pan trust address for all x-ray referrals from Primary Care.

Please call, or ask the patient to phone the booking numbers below to secure an Acute / Urgent appointment slot in the UTC X-ray Department.

Phones are manned 0830 – 1700 by Radiology Booking staff, for appointment availability 0830 – 1900 Monday to Sunday.

We can accommodate up to 20 Acute / Urgent appointments per day and have allocated a protected acute / urgent GP slot every 30 minutes. This will be reviewed dependent upon the number of patients requiring x-ray from the UTC.

Grantham 01476 464358 (Primary Number)
Grantham 01476 464291 (Secondary Number)

Please highlight on the electronic request and in the subject matter of the e-referral form "Acute, Urgent / Routine".

Please only send Acute / Urgent patients directly to the UTC Reception following a confirmed appointment booking with Radiology.

We will hot-report the images whilst the patient is in the department, and any abnormal findings requiring immediate treatment will be referred on to the UTC. The remainder will be discharged back into the referrers care.

Reports will continue to follow the process currently adopted which will be via NHS.net accounts, and we will ensure this is the same across all sites; No Faxes will be sent or accepted as per NHS guidelines. Work is ongoing within the community with regards to a dedicated electronic requesting and results notification system. We will be working closely with GP, CCG and NLAG colleagues to roll this out as quickly as possible.

Cancer / 2WW

The previous FRED forms have been suspended and all lung cancer referrals will revert to the 2ww process. If suspicion of lung Ca, a CXR will be given an urgent appointment. We will report within 24 hours and if any abnormal findings will refer directly to CT within the 24-48 hours as per the previous Protocol. Radiology will follow the same process for any suspicious cancer findings on routine CXRs. These will have a CT scheduled with 24-48 hours of the CXR and referred back to GP to make the 2ww referral. At the request of the chest Physicians any patients with radiographically suspected pneumonia will automatically be booked for a 6 week follow up CXR, and referred to the lung Physicians. If the follow up CXR is still abnormal then a CT may be arranged.

The Radiology Advanced Practitioners will work with GP colleagues to highlight and filter any inappropriate requests for plain film x-rays, which can be undertaken in the format of webinars, study shares etc. Initially this will be done via written feedback.

Key Contacts (Grantham)

Trudy Crosby Grantham X-ray Superintendent / Lead Radiographer Trudy.Crosby@ULH.nhs.uk
Mark Dorn Plain Film/Interventional Radiology Modality Lead (Trust-Wide) Mark.Dorn@ULH.nhs.uk

Other Key Contacts

Dr Tanveer Butt (ULHT Lead Radiologist) Tanveer.Butt@ulh.nhs.uk
Ian Fulloway (Clinical Lead for Diagnostics) Ian.Fulloway@ULH.nhs.uk
Paul Clark (ULHT Radiology Operational Manager) paul.clark@ulh.nhs.uk
Nigel Allen (ULHT Radiology Operational Manager) nigel.allen@ulh.nhs.uk