

Radiology Services

GP Xray Referrals across all ULHT Sites (v3.1)

Summary

Acute / Urgent (same day / 24hrs) ONLY

- Ring Booking Team 01205 445483 to arrange appointment, or ask patient to ring immediately
- Send referral via ULH.xray@nhs.net stating Acute/Urgent

Cancer / 2WW (Inc. FReD chest referrals – pathway recommence with a phased roll out by locality, starting on 1 September (see detailed notes in SOP below)

- As above

Routine referrals (those that do not require Xray within 24 hours)

- Send referral via ULH.xray@nhs.net
- Please do not ring the Booking Team (lines reserved for Urgent referrals only)
- Radiology will contact your patient by phone to schedule their appointment

Full details regarding the GP referral process can be found in the accompanying SOP below, including contact details in the event of a query.

Radiology Services

GP Access for Acute / Urgent Plain Film (X-Ray) Imaging across all United Lincolnshire Hospital NHS Trust sites

ULHT X-ray Imaging sites:

Lincoln County Hospital
Grantham and District Hospital (via UTC X-ray room)
Moy Park, Gonerby Hill Foot, Grantham (Community Diagnostic Hub)
Pilgrim Hospital Boston
John Coupland Hospital, Gainsborough
Johnson Community Hospital, Spalding,
Skegness and District Hospital
Louth District Hospital

- **Introduction**

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

All GP x-ray imaging attendances will now be appointment based.

A Booking Team has been established, who will coordinate the scheduling patients for x-ray at the most appropriate site, and based upon clinical urgency.

The booking process will operate from Monday 3 August 2020

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

X-rays will be 'hot-reported' where possible

Turnaround times:

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

We will undertake between 5 and 10 chest x-rays on each site between 0900 and 1000, which will be 'hot-reported' that day

- **Acute / Urgent GP Referrals ONLY**

Same day Xray can be booked by the GP. Alternatively, the GP can ask the patient to ring the phone-line detailed below urgently.

Booking phone-line: 01205 445483

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

ULH.xray@nhs.net

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

Phones are manned 0830 – 1700 by the Radiology X-ray Booking Team

Appointments are availability 0830 – 1900 Monday to Sunday (site dependent)

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

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.

- **Suspected Cancer / 2WW**

With effect from **1st September 2020**, the previous FReD chest x-ray process will recommence with a phased roll out, by locality, and will be launched with a view that the process shall be changed and established across the county by **1st January 2021**. As localities are triggered during this roll out, the process will change whereby, all routine CXRs will be requested via the routine referral form while all suspect cancer will be requested on the FReD form. **ULHT will no longer accept 2WW Lung referral forms.**

This process will be piloted at Lincoln first to resolve any issues, and to enable other sites to embed the appropriate processes, before it is rolled out Trust wide; this will then be adhering to the best practice pathway, and is the first of our site specific cancer pathways to become a faster diagnostic pathway.

The FReD pathway is designed to reduce the time from referral to treatment start; targeting the first 28 days from referral, it focuses on the reduction of time between the 2WW or CXR referral to 1st 2WW clinic and diagnosis by day 28. The FReD pathway requires a STT CT (within 3 days) via a radiology upgrade after an abnormal CXR. This change removes the need for GPs to make a second referral into ULHT on receipt of an abnormal CXR report.

ULHT will report within same day / 24 hours and if any abnormal findings, will refer directly to CT within the 24-48 hours as per the FReD 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 be triaged and either continue on the FReD pathway or automatically be booked for a 6 week follow up CXR. If the follow up CXR is still abnormal then a CT may be arranged.

Codes and specific messages have been created for the FReD process which will be added to the end of radiology reports, detailing information and any necessary next steps for GPs.

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.

- **Routine GP Referrals**

GP / Acute Care Practitioner (ACP) to send referral electronically to:

ULH.xray@nhs.net

Please do not ring / or ask the patient to ring the Xray Booking line (That is for Acute / Urgent Referrals ONLY and we do not want to block the phone-lines).

The booking Team will contact the patient by phone to arrange their appointment

This will allow Acute/Urgent referrals to be addressed via the Booking phone number in a timely manner.

Priority will remain with Acute/Urgent referrals from GP's.

Approved by:

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Key Contacts (Grantham)

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