

Referral to the multidisciplinary diagnostic clinic after a hospital stay

This leaflet explains more about your referral to the multidisciplinary diagnostic clinic (MDC), following your recent hospital admission.

If you have any further questions, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for you.

What is the multidisciplinary diagnostic clinic (MDC)?

The MDC is a new clinic at St. George's Hospital that has been set up to look into symptoms that may be the sign of serious conditions such as cancer.

You can come to the clinic to get the results of tests you have had while an inpatient, so you don't have to stay in hospital to wait for them. When you come to the clinic we can also request more tests if you need them and check how you are getting on since leaving hospital.

Who can receive the service?

You have been urgently referred to the MDC at St. George's because your symptoms need to be looked at quickly and thoroughly to find the cause.

We will look at your test results and organise any more tests you may need to exclude serious illnesses.

MDC appointments are available quickly so we can find out what is causing your symptoms. It's important you attend all your appointments and tests.

MOST TESTS WILL BE OVER TWO TO FOUR WEEKS AROUND YOUR CLINIC VISIT.

How do I get an appointment at the MDC?

You will either be given an appointment date and time before being discharged from hospital, or a member of the MDC team will phone you to arrange it.

Before you are discharged, please make sure we have your up to date postal address and telephone numbers, including your mobile number. Please also let ward staff know if your phone blocks calls from unrecognised callers, as this will stop the hospital contacting you.

A confirmation letter of your clinic appointment will be sent by post. Please note that because of the speed of the appointment, you may not get this letter until after your appointment.

What happens at the clinic?

At the clinic we will give you your test results and tell you if you need any more tests.

We may have already booked these for you.

How will I be told my test results?

If you have more tests after your first MDC appointment, the results will be explained to you by one of the MDC team, either over the phone, or in person at a second appointment. If you are not comfortable doing this over the phone, please let us know at your first clinic visit.

If we can't find a cause for your symptoms we will refer you back to your GP.

If your test results point to a particular condition, we will refer you to a consultant who specialises in this. You will usually be seen by them in a separate outpatient appointment.

If you are diagnosed with cancer, we will give you some information about it and refer you to a specialist cancer team. There are specialist cancer doctors and nurses at the MDC to support you and your family at this difficult time and explain about treatments.

What should I do if I can't make an appointment?

Please call the MDC team straight away if there is any problem with the dates or times of your appointments or tests. We can then rearrange your appointment as quickly as possible and give your slot to another patient in the same situation as you.

Feedback

We welcome your feedback at all times. As this is a new service we are trialling we would like to know from you what you thought of the clinic. After your tests with us are complete we will send you a short questionnaire to ask you what you thought of the MDC service. We would very much appreciate your views and comments. These will be totally anonymous and will be treated in the strictest confidence. If you do not wish to give feedback this will not affect your care in any way.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about the multidisciplinary diagnostic clinic, please contact the team on 020 8266 6983 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm). Out of hours or at busy times, please leave a message and we will call you back. You can also email the team on stgh-tr.mdc@nhs.net

The MDC is open 9am to 5pm Monday – Friday except on bank holidays.

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.stgeorges.nhs.uk

Additional services

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can offer you on-the-spot advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or the care you have received. You can visit the PALS office between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday in the main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough Wing (near the lift foyer).

Tel: 020 8725 2453 **Email:** pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk

NHS Choices

NHS Choices provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health.

Web: www.nhs.uk

NHS 111

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

Tel: 111

Location

Multidisciplinary Diagnostic Clinic (MDC)
Acute Ambulatory Area
Richmond ward, ground floor St James' wing, St George's Hospital.

