Somerset Local Medical Committee

YOU HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO SEE A SPECIALIST

This leaflet provides guidance on what to expect when you are referred by your GP to see a Specialist (doctor, nurse or therapist). Please read this information carefully — it may save you an unnecessary trip or phone call to the surgery.

In summary, the specialists are responsible for:

- Looking after all your tests
- Providing prescriptions when needed
- Issuing a sick note if required
- Providing you with a follow up appointment if necessary

TESTS & INVESTIGATIONS

All tests and investigations (like X-rays or scans) a specialist wants you to have must be ordered by him or her and the appointments will be sent to you directly, not to your GP.

If the specialist wants blood tests they should give you a request form which you can take to your surgery. Without it, staff won't know exactly what blood samples to take and the results won't go back to the specialist automatically, delaying your care.

The specialist is responsible for acting on the results and for telling you about them.

Your surgery probably won't have the result or what the specialist wants to do with the information. So, if you haven't heard from the specialist about a test appointment or a result, please ring their secretary at the hospital.

PRESCRIPTIONS

if the specialist prescribes a new medication or changes any that you are taking , please ask them to provide you with the first prescription. This may be one that can only be used in the hospital pharmacy or one that you can take to your normal chemist's .

If you are uncertain about any changes the specialist is making please ask them to explain it to you at the appointment. That will save you phoning or waiting to see your GP or pharmacist.

When the specialist writes to your GP, your surgery will usually make the medication change to your repeat list but it may be sensible to telephone your surgery to make sure (or do it on-line if you have registered).

SICK OR FIT NOTE (MED3)

If you need to be certified as unfit for work as a result of a decision made by your specialist (or therapist) he or she should issue a sick note when you are seen for the whole time off you need. Please ask for one if you need it.

FOLLOW UP APPOINTMENTS

If you need to be seen again the hospital will provide you with another appointment. Please ask the specialists' secretary if it does not arrive in a timely way.

With our thanks to AVON LMC

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www.somersetlmc.co.uk