

One Stop Gynaecology Assessment Clinic

You have been referred to the Rapid Access Gynaecology Assessment Clinic for assessment or treatment.

Our priority is to confirm or exclude a diagnosis of gynaecological cancer.

This leaflet provides information about the clinic and how it runs.

About the rapid access gynaecology assessment clinic

The clinic aims to provide prompt diagnosis and treatment to patients with new or changing symptoms that may represent a gynaecological cancer. The clinic has a team of health care professionals including gynaecologists and a sonographer. There is also a team of outpatient nurses and health care assistants available to help you during your clinic visit.

Please do not hesitate to ask us any questions you may have about your symptoms and why you have been referred to the clinic.

How do I get an appointment in the clinic

You can only be referred to the clinic by your GP. Unfortunately, patients without an appointment cannot be seen. If you are ever concerned about a symptom, report it promptly to your GP. Your doctor will assess you and if required can refer you on to a specialist clinic.

How long will I wait to get an appointment

We aim to provide rapid access to our clinic for patients with suspected gynaecological cancer by seeing all urgent GP referrals within 2 weeks. We try to match the number of doctors in clinic to the number of patients attending clinic to minimise delays. However, as it is our aim to see all urgent referrals within 28 days and inform the patient of the diagnosis within this time. Occasionally our clinics are sometimes overbooked. We apologise if you experience any significant delays.

What will happen in clinic and how will you make a diagnosis

Your appointment may last up to 2 hours and we aim to perform a transvaginal ultrasound. The scan is done by passing a small probe into your vagina, to get better scanning images than scanning on your tummy. It will only take a few minutes to complete the scan and should not be painful. A consultant will review the images and discuss these with you, at this point you may be referred for a hysteroscopy. Hysteroscopy is the examination of the inside of the cervix and uterus using a thin, lighted, flexible tube called a hysteroscope and is used to aid diagnosis. Some patients may find this uncomfortable and we recommend that you take paracetamol prior to your appointment in order to manage any discomfort.

Occasionally we cannot offer an appointment for hysteroscopy on the same day so we will offer you an appointment to have your procedure at the earliest available date.

How long will I wait to be seen in clinic

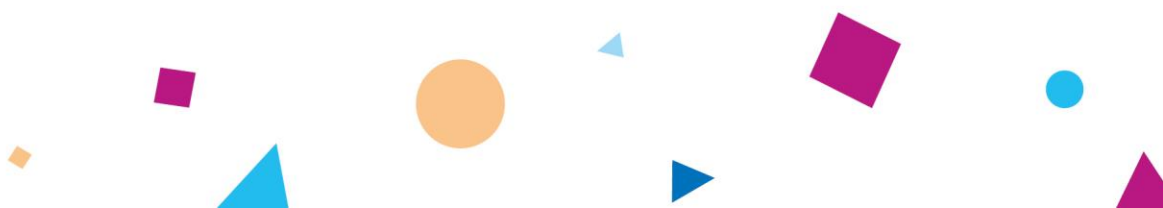
We prefer to offer any biopsies and treatment on the same day because it means that you do not have to come back to the hospital at a later date. The demand for the clinic and for the biopsies is higher on certain days than on others which can mean there is a wait to see a doctor or for a biopsy. We will try to see you as quickly as possible and we apologise if you do experience delays. If you feel you cannot wait to have the biopsy if required, please tell the doctor seeing you and they will arrange for it to be done another day.

What lesions do you biopsy or treat

We biopsy any lesion which it is not possible to make a clinical diagnosis by only examination. We treat all cancers and pre-cancerous lesions.

Will I be given a follow up appointment

We aim to diagnose and treat patients on the day of their first appointment, where possible. The majority of our patients are not given follow up appointments. If you have had a biopsy we will contact you at a later date with the results or a follow up appointment. It is important that you leave us with an accurate day time telephone number as we may need to contact you at short notice to offer a follow up appointment.



I have had a surgical procedure – what happens next

The result of your biopsy will come back to your hospital doctor, who will then decide what follow up is required. You will be sent a letter to let you know when we would like you to come back. This will normally be 2-4 weeks after your first procedure. Please try to attend any follow up appointment offered as our slots are always in demand. If you are unable to keep the appointment, please ring the Booking Office to reschedule your appointment.

Can I get my result by phone?

We do not usually provide results by telephone. If you are offered an appointment by telephone, please do not ask the caller about your biopsy result. The person calling will be an administrator who has been asked to book your appointment by a doctor. The caller will not have been told the result or why you need to come back for follow up.

I have been offered a follow up appointment – what does that mean?

Do not be concerned if you are offered a follow up appointment. Many patients who have had a biopsy are offered follow up appointments. This may be because the doctor wishes to discuss the findings with you, wishes to reassess you or would like further tests or to offer you treatment. We try not to offer unnecessary appointments – if you are offered an appointment, it is because the doctor feels it is important to see you again.

What do I do if I have not been contacted about my follow up?

We expect that all our patients will have been informed about follow up plans within 4 weeks of their procedure.

If you have not heard anything after 4 weeks please contact your consultant's secretary at Gloucestershire Hospital.

Contact Information: Booking Office 0300 422 4506

If you have any worries or concerns following your clinic, please contact your consultant's secretary, their number will be on the top of your letter which you will be posted to you following your appointment.



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