



PRESS RELEASE

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-STARTS-

Could it be cancer?

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals has launched a new advice line for those worried about symptoms

A new advice line is set to be launched this week to offer advice and rapid access to those who are experiencing symptoms they're worried may be cancer.

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust has set up a telephone call centre for people to speak directly to a specialist nurse who can discuss the symptoms and offer advice on the next steps to take.

John McCabe, Consultant Surgeon said: "We want to hear from you if you are worried. It is vital that during the Coronavirus pandemic we don't ignore symptoms that may be a sign of something that needs urgent attention. Cancer services are still going ahead at our hospitals and we want to make sure that people are having the tests they need and any treatment required as soon as possible."

You can ring the advice line on 01744 646 222, Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm

If they think you need to see a specialist quickly or have some tests, they will organise that for you. If they think that you don't need to see a specialist, or have tests, they may recommend you contact your GP or will make an appointment for you.

Pat Gillis, Cancer Services Manager said: "It is natural that during these times people are concerned about going to a hospital or to their GP surgery, but it is really important that people don't delay seeking help. If you call our specialist nurses they can offer reassurance and make sure people are getting the help and support they need as soon as possible.

If you do need appointments with our hospital specialists, appointments will be given for either a telephone chat, video call or we may suggest you need a face to face appointment. If you do need to come into hospital, then every precaution is being made to ensure the safety of our patients."

Patient story:

Steven Treadell, 60, Huyton, is married with 2 sons.

Steven works as a Renal Nurse at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital. He was diagnosed with bowel cancer 5 weeks ago at the start of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Steve says "When I turned 60 I got one of the tests through the post where you have to send a small sample of poo to be tested. Unfortunately it came back saying I needed further investigations. I had the tests and then within in 2 weeks I was being treated at Whiston Hospital. I had my appointment on the Friday and surgery on the Saturday to remove the cancer.

Could it be Cancer?

Call our Cancer Symptoms Advice Line now

Are you worried about...?

- unexplained weight loss
- unusual swellings or lumps
- changes to a mole
- blood in wee or poo
- changes in bowel habits for over six weeks
- a hoarse voice for over three weeks
- difficulties swallowing
- unusual changes to your breast
- vaginal bleeding after menopause or between periods



NHS
St Helens and Knowsley
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Trust

Speak to Laura.
She's here for you today

Call for Rapid Advice Now
01744 646 222
Mon- Fri 9am-5pm

-ENDS-

For any more information, please contact Joshua Pryce, CCG Communications Officer on Joshua.Pryce@knowsleyccg.nhs.uk or call 0151 244 3009.