

Suspected **CAN**cer (SCAN) Pathway

Information for patients



Your GP has advised you may benefit from investigation via the **SCAN** pathway.

The **SCAN** pathway is part of a national programme called ACE (Accelerate, Co-ordinate and Evaluate). It is coordinated by Cancer Research UK and supported by NHS England's National Clinical Director for Cancer.

ACE was established to pilot a new diagnostic pathway for people with 'non-specific but concerning symptoms'. This uses a Multidisciplinary Diagnostic Centre (MDC), which allows people to undergo several diagnostic tests in one location.

Further information about the ACE programme can be found online at:

www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/early-diagnosis-activities/ace-programme

Thank you for reading this information sheet. Do take time to talk to your family and friends about it. If you decide to take part you will be asked to sign and date a consent form at your first appointment.

What is the purpose of the **SCAN** pathway?

Many people visit their GP with 'vague' symptoms, such as weight loss and tiredness. These symptoms are called 'non-specific', as they affect the whole person. Often the cause of these symptoms remains unclear after your GP has assessed you, and sometimes there is a minor cause for such symptoms. However, there is a small chance that they could be the signs of a serious illness, such as cancer. Therefore, these symptoms are often called 'low-risk but not no-risk symptoms'.

At present, GPs do not have a way to get rapid investigations for people with 'non-specific' symptoms. People may go back and forth between their GP and the hospital many times until a diagnosis is made, all of which takes time. As a result there could be delay in diagnosis and treatment, which may have a negative effect on the person's health and the overall outcome.

Although the risk of serious disease is low, the cause of these symptoms can be difficult to diagnose. As a result, there are some people for whom earlier scans and tests could diagnose the cause more quickly, allowing treatment to be started sooner. **SCAN** may enable doctors and the NHS to better understand which people would benefit from early scanning, highlighting the need for more efficient access to radiology services.

As part of the ACE programme the **SCAN** project will carry out a service evaluation of a diagnostic pathway for people in Oxfordshire with 'non-specific symptoms'. This involves:

- rapid diagnostic imaging (Computed Tomography or CT scan)
- laboratory tests (blood and stool (faeces) tests)
- further testing or an appointment with a specialist, depending on the results.

The aim is that people on the **SCAN** pathway will have a diagnosis and be able to begin treatment faster than the previous pathways allowed.

Why have I been referred to **SCAN**?

Your GP has assessed you as having one of the 'non-specific' symptoms for which **SCAN** has been developed.

Do I have to take part?

No. Taking part in **SCAN** is entirely voluntary. It is up to you to decide if you want to be investigated by the **SCAN** pathway.

If you choose not to take part in the **SCAN** pathway, you will continue to receive care following the standard local guidelines agreed by Oxford University Foundation Hospital NHS Trust (OUHFT), Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG), and National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines.

What will I have to do if I take part?

Your GP will send the ACE team detailed information about your clinical problem, your symptoms, examination findings, medical history and any recent test results.

If you have any questions at this point, please contact the **SCAN** team.

Email: scanpathway@ouh.nhs.uk

Tel: **01865 227 780**

(8.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday)

You will be asked to come for an appointment at the Radiology department in the Churchill Hospital in Oxford, within one week of the referral for a CT scan. You will need to collect a stool sample in the blue-topped specimen pot provided in the **SCAN** information envelope, the day before your **SCAN** appointment.

Following your first appointment, the clinical information received from your GP and all of your test results will be reviewed

by the **SCAN** team (a group of specialist doctors skilled in managing 'non-specific' symptoms).

Depending on your results, within one week the **SCAN** team will do one of the following:

1. refer you to a specialist clinic in Oxford
2. refer you for further rapid testing (within two weeks) in Oxford
3. invite you for a clinic appointment with the SCAN team in Oxford
4. refer you back to your GP with advice.

Taking part in the **SCAN** pathway

Please take any time you need to discuss this with your family and friends.

Before you sign the consent form at your **SCAN** appointment, you will be given time to ask questions to help you decide whether or not to take part.

When we ask you to sign the consent form, a member of our team will sign it too.

The consent form will confirm that you have read and understood the information in this leaflet. It will confirm that you have had a chance to ask questions and that these questions have been answered.

There will be another consent form which will confirm whether you agree to your blood being stored for research purposes. This is optional and does not affect your eligibility to use the **SCAN** pathway.

You can still change your mind after you have signed the consent form. You are free to withdraw from the pathway at any time, without giving a reason. This will not affect the standard of care you receive.

The **SCAN** Pathway

Before the start of the pathway

Your GP will discuss the **SCAN** pathway with you and will give you this information sheet.

You will be contacted by telephone by a member of the **SCAN** team, who will offer you an appointment for a CT scan and blood and stool tests.

You will have time to discuss the **SCAN** pathway in more detail and to ask any questions either at the first appointment, by telephone (01865 227 780), or by email (scanpathway@ouh.nhs.uk). Research staff may ask you some further questions during this discussion.

At your first appointment

Please bring your stool sample in the blue topped pot. You will be asked to:

1. sign a consent form to say you agree to continue on the **SCAN** pathway (see enclosed form)
2. sign a consent form to say you agree to your blood and urine samples being stored for research (see enclosed form). This is optional.
3. possibly have further blood taken and sent to the laboratory
4. hand in your filled blue-topped stool specimen pot
5. have a CT scan of your chest, abdomen, and pelvis
6. fill out a questionnaire about your experience.

Preparing for the CT scan

Please do not have anything to eat two hours prior to your appointment, as this may affect the results of the scan. You may drink water or clear fluids (no milk) up to the time of your scan. You do not need to have a full bladder.

During your scan you will have an injection of a special dye, called contrast, to enhance the scan quality. The CT scan will take approximately 20 minutes. A further information leaflet is included to give you more details about the CT scan.

Follow-up

Your follow-up care will be based on your medical history and test results. The various options are shown in the flowchart on page 10. If the results from the CT scan and other tests do not show that further evaluation is needed, the **SCAN** team will write to your GP with information and treatment suggestions.

If you take part in the **SCAN** pathway, the information collected during your follow-up care will be included in the SCAN database and will be used to help develop more effective pathways to diagnose people with non-specific symptoms. All of the information we collect will be kept strictly confidential.

At the end of the SCAN pathway

You will not be required to have any more appointments, tests or scans. You may be asked to fill out a further questionnaire about your experiences of the **SCAN** pathway.

Data from your medical records will be collected on the outcome of your investigations and any further diagnoses or treatments that you have over the next two years. Your GP or specialist will discuss with you any further NHS treatments, care, monitoring or testing that may be necessary. If you move away or change Health Authority, data will be collected about your health status from the Health and Social Care information Centre and other NHS bodies.

What if there is a problem during the course of the pathway?

Every care will be taken during the course of the pathway. If you have a concern about any aspect of the pathway, you should ask to speak with the **SCAN** team, who will do their best to answer your questions.

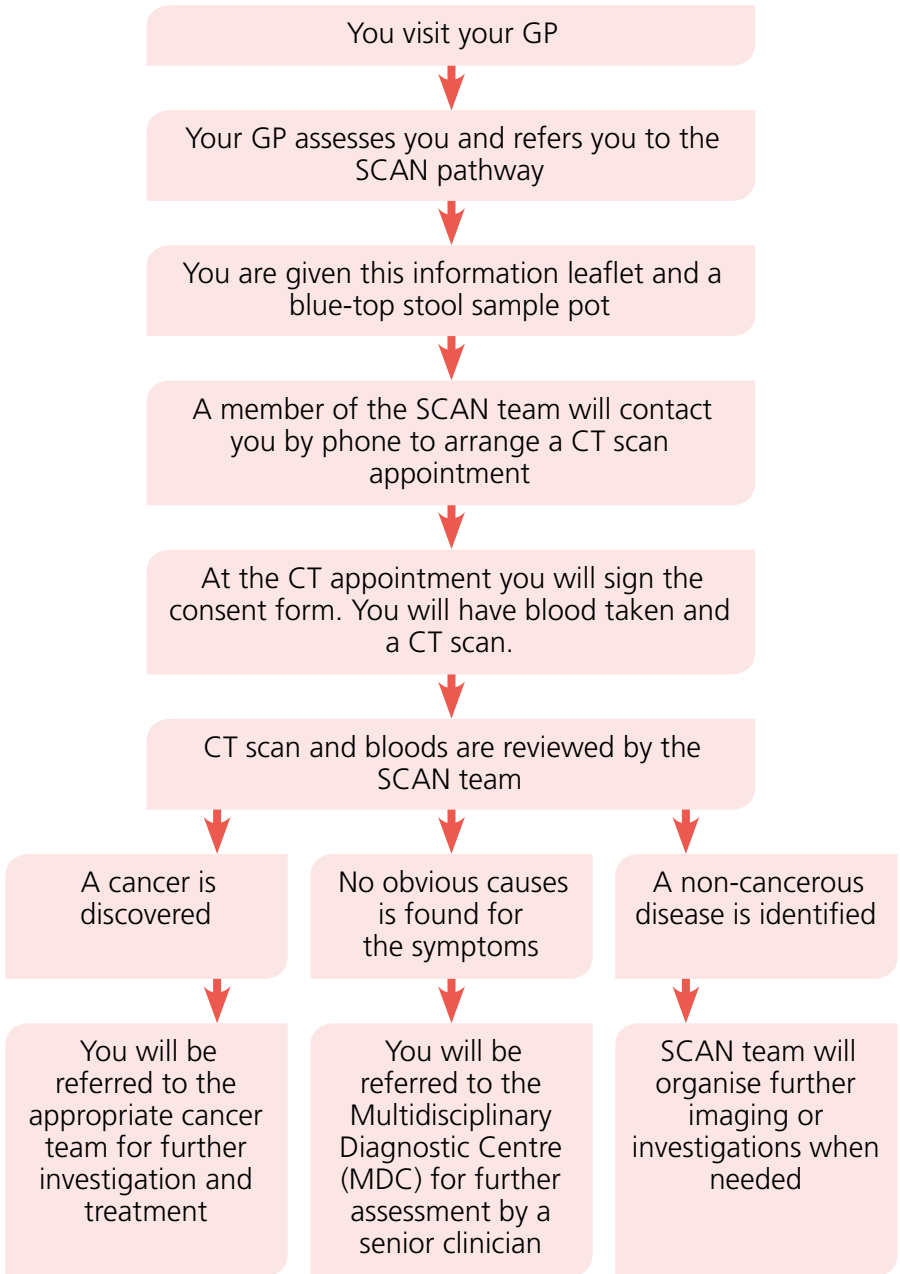
Tel: **01865 227 780**

Email: **scanpathway@ouh.nhs.uk**

If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this through the NHS Complaints Procedure. Additional information is available from your local Patient Advice and Liaison Service office.

Email: **www.pals.nhs.uk**

Summary of **SCAN** pathway



Will my taking part in this service evaluation be kept confidential?

If you join the **SCAN** pathway, all information which is collected about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. Documents relating to you will be kept by the OUHFT and at the University of Oxford, Nuffield Department of Primary Health Sciences, in secure areas and on a password protected computer and database.

You will be entered into the **SCAN** database. All data collected about you will be linked with your NHS number and year of birth. Your medical records and the data collected for the pathway will be looked at by authorised persons involved in your care or the service evaluation. Authorised people from OUHFT may also check them to make sure that the service evaluation is being carried out correctly.

Oxford Imaging Trials Unit (OITU) at the Churchill Hospital will also keep your current and previous names, date of birth and NHS number, to find out if you were diagnosed by **SCAN** or an alternative pathway as part of the service evaluation. Any test results received will have been anonymised at site; this involves blacking out/removing any personal information.

Responsibility for compliance with national and international data protection standards lies with the Oxford University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

What will happen to any samples I give?

The blood and stool samples that you give as part of this pathway will be analysed immediately in the laboratory of Oxford University Hospitals.

In addition, we would like to collect blood and urine samples for research purposes, to investigate tests for cancer or other diseases in people with non-specific symptoms. This may sometimes involve diagnostic companies or researchers, who have developed specialist tests for these symptoms. There would be no financial gain for the **SCAN** team in relation to these samples. The additional consent form asks you to consent to the use of your samples in this way.

What will happen to the results of the **SCAN** pathway service evaluation?

The combined anonymised results of the SCAN pathway will be analysed by the SCAN researchers, shared with other ACE pilot projects, the Department of Health, Macmillan Cancer Support, Cancer Research UK, and published in medical journals.

The service evaluation will take 2-4 years to complete and the results should be available and published after 2019. If you are interested in the results, please look up ACE Wave 2 on the Cancer Research UK website or contact the SCAN team at scanpathway@ouh.nhs.uk

If the results show conclusively that rapid investigation of non-specific symptoms leads to earlier diagnosis of cancer, they may be used to influence future NHS guidelines.

Who is sponsoring this pathway?

The SCAN pathway is funded by the Department of Health, Macmillan Cancer Support, and Cancer Research UK. The pathway is supported by Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) and the University of Oxford. It is being carried out by the Oxford Imaging Trials Unit and the OCCG.

Contact details

If you have any further questions about the SCAN pathway, please contact:

Julie-Ann Phillips (SCAN Navigator)

Tel: **01865 227 780**

(8.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday)

Email: **scanpathway@ouh.nhs.uk**

Thank you for reading this information booklet. If you decide to take part in this pathway you must personally sign and date the consent form.

We will give you a copy of this information sheet and your signed consent form.

We will keep a second copy of this document with the service evaluation records on and will place a third copy in your radiology records.

This pathway is being supported by:

- Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Cancer Research UK
- NHS England
- Macmillan Cancer Support
- Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences
- Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

If you have a specific requirement, need an interpreter, a document in Easy Read, another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221 473** or email **PALS@ouh.nhs.uk**

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March 2017
Review: March 2020
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