

Monday 7 July 2025

Dear GP colleagues,

Updated referral process for non-cancer upper GI pathway – effective from Monday 30 June 2025

As part of the North-west London (NWL) agreement to align how upper GI referrals are processed across NWL Trusts, our Endoscopy service will be changing the referral process for adult patients with non-cancer upper GI symptoms.

This change means all referrals for this pathway should be made using a new standardised referral form (attached). The new form supports better triage, consistent decision-making, and ensures patients are only booked for an Gastroscopy when clinically appropriate and in line with NICE guidance.

What's changing?

- The new referral form replaces previous local versions or free-text letters
- It should be completed and uploaded as a PDF via e-RS when making the referral
- The form includes clearer triage criteria, including guidance about patient age and required pre-referral tests

Referrals for suspected cancer remains the same and should continue to be sent to tr.2WWreferrals@nhs.net.

Why we are making this change

- Changing to the new referral form will reduce variation across the sector and avoid unnecessary Gastroscopy, particularly in patients aged 17–65 years
- It will also help in getting patients into diagnostics faster; patients meeting the criteria can be seen under the six-week diagnostic standard, rather than waiting under the 18-week referral-to-treatment (RTT) pathway

Please see the new referral form attached, along with a short summary poster explaining how the new pathway will work in practice.

GP colleagues referring into London North-west University Hospital or Hillingdon Hospital may already be familiar with the form as it is in use at both sites.

If you have questions or would like further information, please contact:

- Anet Soubieres, head of specialty – a.soubieres@nhs.net
- Simone Brown, general manager – simone.brown7@nhs.net

Kind regards,

GP liaison - on behalf of the Endoscopy service