

# Referral form for General Surgical Emergency Clinic

Please email fully completed form to [ndht.cmcnewappointments@nhs.net](mailto:ndht.cmcnewappointments@nhs.net)

Bookable up to 48 hours before clinic (Monday - Friday, 10:30 - 12:00)

Referrals may access the following on the same day:

Surgical consultation, ultrasound and admission for surgery

Patients must meet the following criteria:

- ✓ Early warning score <2
- ✓ Mobile and able to attend a morning clinic
- ✓ Must have GI Surgical issue or *below neck* abscess  
(EXCLUDES Vascular, Urology, ENT, Max Facs and suspected cancer – see Pathway overleaf)

Patient details
Name: _____
Address: _____ _____
D.O.B.: _____
NHS no.: _____
Phone no.: _____

GP details
Name: _____
Surgery address: _____ _____
Phone no.: _____
Email: _____

History of presenting problem (please additionally attach details of current medication)

Please ensure the following for all patients:

Clear fluids only from 4am	FBC	Amylase	<b>ED only</b>
Information leaflet given	U&E's	**Or will attend	ECG if > 40
*Urine dip +/- send MSU	LFT's	NDDH	CXR / AXR if appropriate
βhCG if female < 55	CRP	Phlebotomy Clinic	

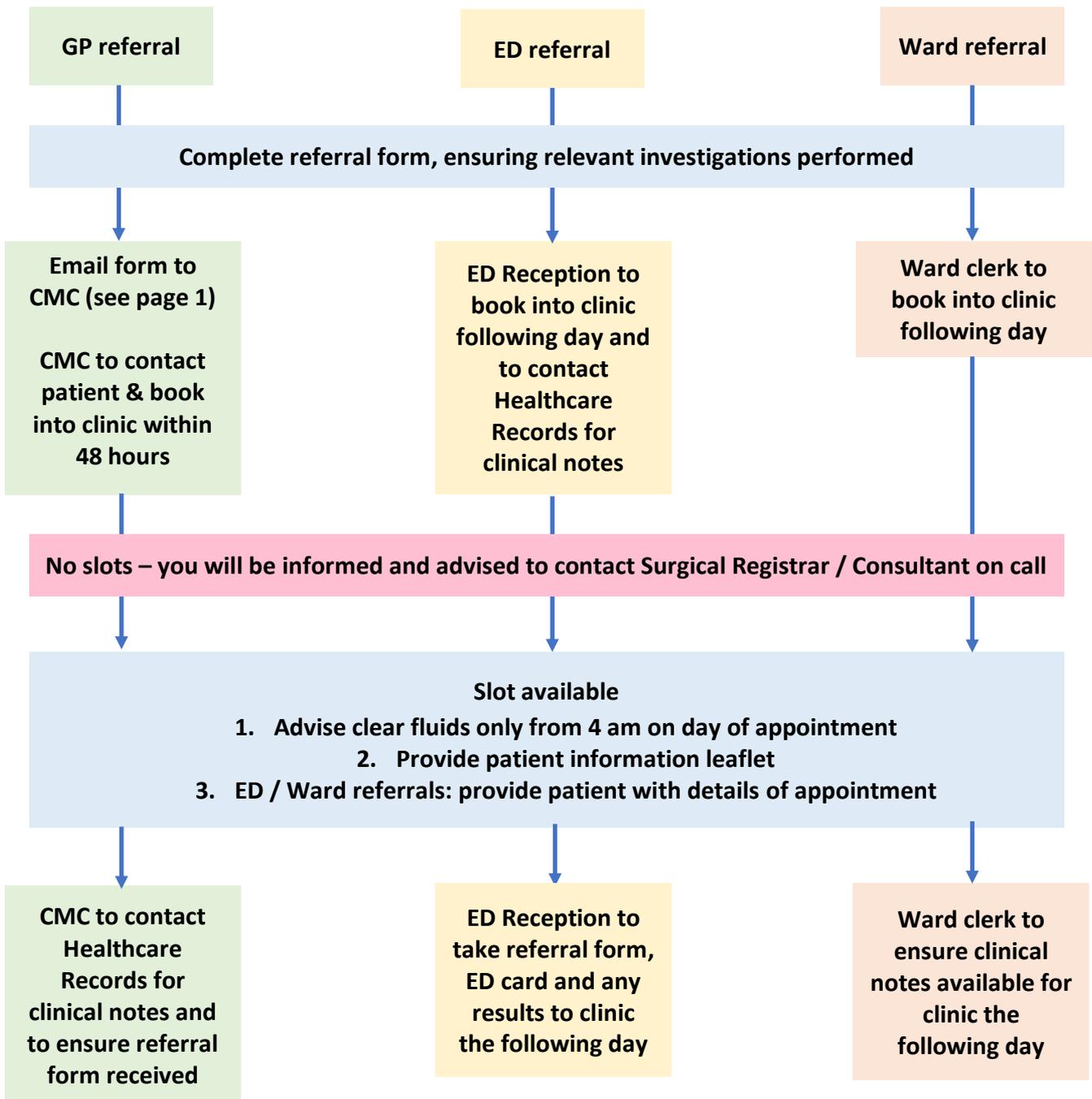
\* If urinalysis not possible then provide container for urine specimen to bring on day of appt

\*\* If blood tests not possible then patient to attend NDDH Phlebotomy Clinic 1 hr pre-appt

Abscesses exempt from blood tests unless significant comorbidities or medications

<b>Name and position of referrer</b>	
<b>Contact phone / bleep no.</b>	

## General Surgical Emergency Clinic Pathway



### Vascular referrals / advice:

**Urgent:** if NDDH Vasc Cons not on site, contact Taunton (MPH) Vasc Cons on call

**Non-urgent:** refer to Vasc via DRSS (mark as urgent – should be seen within 1 week)

**Diabetic foot-related problems:** refer to Diabetic Foot Clinic at NDDH

### Urology:

**Referrals:** bleep Surgical SHO on 333 via NDDH switchboard

**Urgent advice:** contact Uro Reg (in working hrs) or Cons (24/7) via NDDH switchboard

**Non-urgent advice:** use Advice & Guidance

**ENT and Max Facs:** refer to respective team at RD&E

**Suspected cancer:** refer via 2 week wait pathway of relevant specialty

**Problem relating to known cancer diagnosis:** contact NDDH Acute Oncology Service

**Lymph node biopsy:** refer to SEC (next available appointment)

# General Surgical Emergency Clinic

## Patient information leaflet

### Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio tape or computer disk, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please telephone the Communications Department on 01271 311575.

## What are Surgical Assessment Clinics?

In May 2011 the Northern Devon Healthcare Trust launched daily surgical emergency clinics to improve our patients' access to expert surgical opinion. Some patients who are referred by their GP need urgent surgical assessment but may not need to stay in hospital overnight.

The Surgical Emergency Clinic will allow you to be seen the morning after your referral by a surgeon who will assess you, arrange investigations and where necessary admit you for surgery.

You have been referred to this clinic because your GP or the hospital team feel that you need a very prompt surgical assessment and are possibly too unwell to wait two weeks for the urgent clinics, but also do not need to be admitted to a hospital bed.

The clinics are always on weekdays in the morning between 10:30 am and 12:00 pm.

## How do I get referred to the Surgical Assessment Clinics?

The GP or hospital staff will have booked you into a slot. They will let you know the time and place and what preparations you need.

## Who will I see at the Surgical Assessment Clinics?

You will see a surgical doctor who will assess you and make a diagnosis where possible. The surgical team will then discuss some options with you.

## What will happen at the first appointment?

It is important that you attend having had nothing to eat and only drinking water from 4:00 am.

You should bring an overnight bag with you in case you are admitted for an overnight stay in hospital.

An abdominal ultrasound may be performed and if so, you will be asked to drink more water to fill your bladder.

The doctor may arrange:

- Admission for surgery or further review / investigations
- Further outpatient investigations

Your GP will receive a copy of the consultation and you can also have a copy if you would like.

## What are the benefits of the new clinics?

We want to make sure that you get seen as quickly as possible by the right surgical team so we can put a care plan in place.

We also hope to avoid the need for patients to be admitted to hospital just for observation. This avoids you being away from your family and friends in unfamiliar surroundings but still allows you to receive all the care you need.

If you get admitted prior to your appointment or cancel your appointment, please contact **01271 349186** between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. Outside office hours, please call 01271 322577 and ask for Emergency Department reception.

### **PALS**

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or e-mail: [ndht.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ndht.pals@nhs.net). You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital,

## Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of the ward staff in the first instance.

Please also take the time to complete the 'Tell Us What You Think' comment card or leaflet, so we can make improvements.

If you would like to make a formal complaint, please contact the Customer Relations Manager on 01271 322334 or put your concerns in writing to the Chief Executive, Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust, Raleigh Park, Barnstaple, EX31 4JB.

### Was this leaflet useful?

If you have any suggestions to improve this leaflet, please contact the Communications Department on 01271 311575.

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust  
Raleigh Park, Barnstaple  
Devon EX31 4JB  
Tel. 01271 322577  
[www.northdevonhealth.nhs.uk](http://www.northdevonhealth.nhs.uk)



© Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust