

Pan-London Suspected Childrens (under 16) Cancer Referral Guide

Referral Criteria (The GP must always contact the local Paediatrician on-call within 24 hours and refer to the local paediatric department for an appointment within 48 hours)

Retinoblastoma

Children with an absent red reflex should be sent for **urgent** ophthalmological assessment.

Leukaemia

Children and young people with unexplained petechiae or hepatosplenomegaly **or** FBC suggestive of leukaemia.

Offer **urgent full blood count (within 48 hours)** to assess for leukaemia in children and young people with any of the following Unexplained symptoms:
Pallor, Persistent fatigue, Fever, Persistent infection, Generalised lymphadenopathy or Persistent bone pain.

Lymphoma

Children and young people with unexplained lymphadenopathy or splenomegaly. Take into account any associated symptoms, particularly:

- Fever
- Night sweats
- Shortness of breath
- Pruritus
- Weight loss

Neuroblastoma

Children with a palpable abdominal mass or unexplained enlarged abdominal organ.

Wilm's Tumour

Children with any of the following:

- A palpable abdominal mass
- Unexplained enlarged abdominal organ
- Unexplained visible haematuria

DISCUSS WITH PAEDIATRICIAN ON CALL AT LOCAL HOSPITAL

URGENT ADMISSION OR SUSPECTED CHILDREN'S CANCER REFERRAL ON RECOMMENDATION OF PAEDIATRICIAN ON CALL

Note: Take into account the insight and knowledge of parents and carers when considering making a referral for suspected cancer in a child or young person. Consider referral for children if their parent or carer has persistent concern or anxiety about the child's symptoms, even if the symptoms are most likely to have a benign cause.

Safety netting: The GP has clinical responsibility for ensuring appropriate follow up and onward referral is arranged for patients referred on direct access investigations. In many cases positive results may be forwarded directly to the cancer team but the GP must ensure a referral has been made and that appropriate safety-netting arrangements are in place.

For Brain/ CNS OR Hepatoblastoma OR Hepatocellular Carcinoma OR Soft Tissue Sarcoma See Over

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Brain & CNS Cancer

Children with newly abnormal cerebellar or other central neurological function, for example children with the following:

- **Unexplained** headache
- Fits
- Weakness
- Dysphagia
- Ataxia
- Facial nerve palsy
- Torticollis

Behavioural change/deterioration in developmental milestones or school performance

See HeadSmart for further information regarding clinical feature.

Heptoblastoma or Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Children and young people with the following:

- Right upper quadrant lump or swelling in the abdomen, which may be painful
- Weight loss, loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting
- Ultrasound scan or x-ray indicating a possible tumour in the liver

Soft Tissue Sarcoma

Diagnostics

- Discuss any children with unexplained soft tissue lumps with the local paediatric service and refer for an appointment within 48 hours where imaging and tissue diagnosis will be organised.

Referral criteria

Children with the following:

- Unexplained soft tissue lumps with the following features:
 - Abnormal imaging suggestive of soft tissue sarcoma
 - Normal or equivocal ultrasound but high suspicion of soft tissue sarcoma

Risk factors:

- Prior radiotherapy
- Li–Fraumeni syndrome
- Hereditary retinoblastoma
- Neurofibromatosis
- Familial adenomatous polyposis (Gardner's syndrome)

Bone Sarcoma and Skin Cancer should be referred urgently using the appropriate **site specific Pan London Referral form**.

SUSPECTED CHILDREN'S CANCER REFERRAL ON RECOMMENDATION OF PAEDIATRICIAN ON CALL

RESOURCES:

1. Suspected cancer: recognition and referral NICE guidelines NG12 (Feb 2021) <https://cks.nice.org.uk/topics/childhood-cancers-recognition-referral/management/referral-for-childhood-cancer/>
2. RCGP Brain tumours in children <http://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/course/view.php?id=99>
3. HeadSmart <http://www.headsmart.org.uk/>
4. RCGP and Leukaemia Care Blood Cancer <http://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/course/view.php?id=184>
5. Leukaemia Care <https://www.leukaemiacare.org.uk/support-and-information/for-healthcare-professionals/>
6. Improving outcomes for people with sarcoma NICE guidelines [CSG9] <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/csg9>
7. RCGP and Bone Cancer Research Trust <http://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/course/view.php?id=152>