

Contacts and further information

For further information and advice on vague symptoms or your referral contact the following Healthcare Professionals.

Contact numbers:

Acute Oncology/Vague symptoms support worker and Nurse Specialist:

Between the hours of 8:00-17:00 Monday-Friday (except bank holidays)

Office number: 01744646794.

Your GP surgery.

Whiston Hospital
Warrington Rd,
Whiston,
Rainhill, Prescot
L35 5DR



/sthknhs



@sthk.nhs

www.sthk.nhs.uk



St Helens and Knowsley
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Trust

Vague Symptoms

Information for Patients and Relatives

This leaflet can be made available
in alternative languages / formats on request.

如有需要，本传单可提供其他语言/版式
此單張的其他語言/格式版本可按要求提供

Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona
w innych językach/formatach.

Author: Oncology Consultant
Department: Oncology Department
Document Number: STHK0823
Version: 2
Review date: 30 June 2021

What is a Vague Symptom?

A vague symptom is a symptom that persists but it is not clear what the cause is.

These symptoms often consist of:

- Unintentional weight loss in the last 3 months.
- Abnormal blood tests that do not give a full picture of what is happening and why.

Persistent and unexplained symptoms such as:

- Nausea
- Loss of appetite
- Fatigue/ extreme tiredness
- Bloating
- Sweats/ night sweats with unknown cause.
- A suspicious lump that does not sit into an existing pathway or possible cancer diagnosis.

However, some of the above symptoms can be a possible cancer diagnosis all symptoms mentioned can be caused by conditions other than cancer.

What should I do if I experience these symptoms?

If you are experiencing such symptoms then your GP may refer you to the Vague Symptoms service.

Your doctors will want to find out as much as they can about the cause of your symptoms, which usually involve a number of baseline tests.

This may involve one or a combination of the following:

- Blood tests
- Urine test
- Chest x-ray
- Physical examination
- CT scan (computerized tomography)

Waiting for test results can be a difficult time, it may take up to a couple of weeks for your results to be ready.

It might be helpful to talk to a family member or close friend for support.

Following your referral into the Vague Symptom Pathway you can expect;

- To be contacted to be offered a date and time for your CT scan to further understand your symptoms.
- To be contacted by a member of the vague symptom team, who will explain the process fully and answer any query's you may have.
- Your results of your scan will be discussed at our local Multidisciplinary team meeting held once a week. The outcome of the meeting and any further action required will be sent back to your GP.