

# Primary Care Communication to Secondary Care – A Quick Guide



## Referrals

Ensure referrals are of high quality



- Include
  - Reason for referral
  - Details of assessment, investigation and management that has already taken place
  - Be clear what you are asking secondary care colleagues to do
  - Ensure any appropriate pre-referral pathways are followed including any appropriate pre-referral investigations.

Likelihood of elective operative intervention?  
(non-emergency)



- Ensure that appropriate ongoing chronic disease management is optimised e.g.
  - BP checked and optimised for those with hypertension
  - Recent or appropriate HbA1c for those with diabetes
- Where patients have relevant treatment resistant conditions this should be highlighted at the point of referral
- Independent hospitals have thresholds for acceptance due to no critical care

## Enabling professional contacts

Ensure functional bypass number accessible to NHS Stakeholders



- The number should be on **NHS Service Finder** for other NHS staff to find.
- Of note this is not a publicly accessible website and can only be accessed following nhs email ratification
- <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/nhs-service-finder>

More information:

<https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/latest/publications/plans-and-strategies/primary-and-secondary-care-interface/>