

**NHS e-REFERRAL SERVICE ‘PAPER SWITCH off PROGRAMME’**

From the 1st March 2018 North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust will no longer accept paper referrals from GP practices into consultant led first outpatient services.

All referrals will be required to be sent electronically via the NHS e-Referral Service (formerly Choose and Book). The NHS e-Referral Service provides an electronic route for referrals and combines electronic booking with a choice of place, date and time for first appointment.

The e-RS Paper Switch off Programme is a national programme with support of NHS England, NHS Improvement and NHS Digital and is a key element in making progress towards a paperless NHS.

The benefits of receiving all referrals electronically include the following;

* Easier referrals tracking
* Secure processing of clinical information
* Fewer lost referrals and clear referral audit trail

A project team with representatives from the Trust and the Clinical Commissioning Group has already started to work together to increase electronic referral utilisation and to identify where paper referral processes still exist. North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust have worked to ensure all consultant led first outpatient services are available to the e-Referral Service as part of this project.

If paper referrals are received after 1st March 2018 GP practices will be contacted and requested to re-route the referral via the e-Referral Service.

For any further information please contact one of the following;

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