

New NHS Self-Referral Tool for patients with Post Menopausal Bleeding

Information for GPs

From 2 February 2026, patients who are registered with a GP in Bury, Salford, Oldham, Heywood, Middleton, and Rochdale who experience bleeding after menopause (PBM) will be able to use a new NHS self-referral tool to book a hospital check-ups online without needing a GP appointment.

The new self-assessment tool is for women who have gone through menopause (had no periods for 12 months or more) and are not on HRT. Users complete a quick online questionnaire about their symptoms and family history. Based on responses, they may be fast-tracked for hospital tests such as pelvic ultrasounds or guided to their GP for further care.

The new tool is a joint effort by the Greater Manchester Cancer Alliance, the Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust, and the Greater Manchester Diagnostic Network.

What is the self-referral PMB pathway and who is it for?

The self-referral PMB pathway is an online questionnaire completed by patients who have experienced PMB and are NOT currently taking HRT. If accepted, patients will directly receive an urgent hospital appointment on the suspected cancer pathway without the need for a GP appointment. We know awareness of PMB as a red flag symptom of endometrial cancer is low in the general population and there can be barriers to patients accessing care. We hope an online self-referral pathway will mitigate some of these barriers and improve reporting of symptoms, facilitating early diagnosis.

2. How will patients know about the pathway?

We have designed a communications package including targeted social media and online promotion of the pathway, local media stories and a toolkit for community leaders and VCSFE organisations. We would also be grateful if practices could support the pathway by sending out the attached SMS message using the EMIS search attached. We understand this may not be feasible for all practices to do but



we hope this will be the most effective way of ensuring awareness and uptake of the pathway.

We'd also be grateful if **from 2 February 2026** where available practices could display a digital screen asset to promote the new pathway on any TV display screens, print out a poster to put up in your surgery (if you have a colour printer), feature a short news story about the new pathway on your websites and/or share information on your social media accounts (from the toolkit attached).

3. What happens once a patient is accepted onto the pathway?

Once a patient is accepted onto the pathway, they will receive an email confirmation and be directly contacted by the Northern Care Alliance (NCA) with an urgent appointment. They will also receive written information on the nature of the appointment and investigations.

Their GP will be informed that they have been accepted onto the suspected cancer pathway.

4. What happens if the patient is not accepted onto the pathway?

The questionnaire includes a number of triage questions to ensure the patient is suitable for the pathway. If the patient does not meet this criteria, they will be advised to make a GP appointment as soon as possible to discuss any abnormal bleeding.

5. Who will ensure the patient attends their appointment and what will happen if the patient DNAs?

The appointment will follow the usual monitoring processes from NCA. If a patient does not attend an appointment, their GP will be informed.

6. Should we direct patients to the pathway?

Whilst in the pilot stage, we advise that once patients contact their practice to report PMB, they are given a GP appointment to ensure they have been referred. Please note the pathway is not suitable for patients using HRT and we ask that GPs assess this group of patients in line with published guidance. <https://gmcancer.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/PMB-Algorithm-V11-NAR-FINAL.pdf>

